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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-094 *16 May 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Talks on Elections Begin

NC1505123795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on legislative elections in the West Bank began in Cairo today. The Palestinian side is headed by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, and the Israeli side by Yoel Singer, legal adviser at the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Before the talks, Singer said this round will focus on topics relating to elections and will not deal with Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem.

Singer said that Israel's view on Jerusalem's inhabitants participating in the elections is that they can participate in the voting process but cannot run as candidates.

Singer expressed the hope that the two sides will finish discussing all topics relating to the elections by 1 July.

The heads of the two delegations held a private meeting before the talks.

'Asfur on Election Security

JN1505145095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed in Cairo at noon today. A separate meeting was held between Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian side, and Yo'el Singer, head of the Israeli delegation.

Before the talks began, Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said: We demand that security be provided around the polling places. He stressed that the eligibility of citizens in occupied Jerusalem for candidacy will be discussed in this round, in addition to the security arrangements related to the Israeli Army's redeployment and the legislative elections.

For his part, Singer stressed the need to agree on all issues by the set date of 1 July. Regarding the participation of the citizens of Jerusalem in the elections, he said the polls at which Palestinians from East Jerusalem will cast their votes will be located outside Jerusalem. He emphasized Israel's position, which refuses to grant these citizens the right to run for office, as he put it.

Round of Talks Expected To End 17 May

NC1605095095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli sides today resumed negotiations on holding legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian side to the negotiations was chaired by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, and the Israeli side by Yo'el Singer, legal adviser at the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The negotiations, which started yesterday in Cairo, address the conditions the nominees and voters should meet for participating in the elections, the number of members in the Palestinian legislative council, the presence of international observers to monitor the elections, and the possibility of east Jerusalem's residents participating in the elections, both in nominations and voting.

This round of negotiations started yesterday and Israeli land expropriation in Arab Jerusalem hung over the atmosphere. The round is expected to end tomorrow.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief To Visit Morocco, Urge Minisummit

NC1505131495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is continuing his intense efforts to hold an Arab minisummit to discuss Israel's confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, who met President Husni Mubarak yesterday, will leave for Morocco in the next two days for talks with King Hassan II of Morocco in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] I proposed the idea of a minisummit in my speech before the Arab League Council meeting. The speech was public and very clear. I also proposed the idea in my message to his majesty King Hassan. His majesty invited me to visit Morocco to discuss this with him. [passage omitted] God willing, I will leave for Morocco in the next two days to discuss the issue with his majesty King Hassan II. I hope this minisummit will be held. It is up to his majesty the king to convene the summit. We have placed all the Arab League's resources at the disposal of his majesty. [passage omitted]

Israel's decision is very grave. This means Israel is persisting in its aggression and in disregarding the Arab

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states and Arab and Islamic feelings. I did not imagine that the Israeli leadership would embark on such a step. We cannot keep silent about this, especially as we are pursuing the path of peace. We demand a just and comprehensive peace—peace based the land-for-peace principle, peace based on the implementation of the UN resolutions. This is the Arab position. [end recording]

Comments Before Leaving

NC1605100595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transliterated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo this morning for Rabat on an official visit to Morocco for talks with King Hassan II, monarch of Morocco and chairman of the Jerusalem Committee. The talks will deal with the latest developments relating to the Israeli measures in Jerusalem.

In a predeparture statement 'Abd-al-Majid said King Hassan II's chairing the Jerusalem Committee and the Organization of the Islamic Conference will play a major role at this important and sensitive stage for the Arabs. It will also provide an opportunity to reassert the importance of a fair and comprehensive solution that will achieve the stability and development that are needed most at this time. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his hope that his visit to Morocco will succeed, noting that King Hassan II has always taken constructive initiatives to serve every issue concerning the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Asked about his call for a limited Arab summit, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said his message, which he sent to King Hassan II after the Arab League Council emergency meeting passed a resolution on 6 May, suggested holding a limited Arab summit to discuss Jerusalem, particularly after a U.S. congressman submitted a bill to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. He noted that in view of the serious situation, the Israeli authorities' expropriation of Palestinian land, and the favorable trend in the Arab League, he was assigned the task of holding contacts in this regard. He expressed his hope that the summit will be held, particularly now that it has become clear that the Arab public welcomes and supports a minisummit.

Asked whether his call for an Arab summit has been accepted, 'Abd-al-Majid said that reports in the Egyptian papers today citing Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and noting President Husni Mubarak's support for this idea prove that Egypt welcomes and supports a mini Arab summit. He added that news agency reports that the United Arab Emirates, which is chairing the current session of the Arab League Council, supports this call show an Arab desire to hold a minisummit to emphasize the Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem.

Extent of Egyptian-Syrian Frictions Viewed

MM1205155195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 May 95 p 7

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Egyptian-Syrian Relations: Differences Postponed Summit After Cairo Quadripartite Meeting; Agreement Required To Confront Anticipated Alliances"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Relations between Cairo and Damascus are going through a sensitive phase governed by agreement on the general outlines concerning Israel's future in the peace process and the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, and differences over details of the efforts to secure a peaceful solution, which Damascus believes should be conducted carefully and cautiously while adhering to the constants and offering no deep arrangements [as published], which Cairo believes necessary to give the Israelis the confidence to commit themselves to a full withdrawal and to help the Labor Party to stay in government.

The differences emerged from the quadripartite summit following the Bet Lid suicide operation carried out by two Islamic Jihad elements. Because it [the summit] was considered a reply from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, King Husayn of Jordan, and Palestinian National Authority Head Yasir 'Arafat [only three participants listed] to the "terrorist" action carried out by Islamic movements, and a formation of a "peace" front against rejectionists. And because it belittled the importance of the summit held at the end of last year among President Mubarak, President Hafiz al-Asad, and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

True, the tripartite summit represented an important event in the positions of the Arab states preparing to establish peace with Israel, especially in terms of halting what al-Asad terms the Arab "rush" to normalize with Israel before comprehensive peace agreements are signed with it. But its [the tripartite summit] prospects would have improved if the quadripartite summit had not been not held. The Syrians, the Saudis, and other states had hoped that it would not take place, in contrast to King Husayn and 'Arafat, who benefited from it in the framework of their relations with Israel and the balance with the "rejection axis," as they see it.

The fact that the summit was held in Cairo is one of the important reasons for Syria's admonishment of the Egyptians. This is in addition to the fact that Damascus was not informed of the details of the summit, its date, and its agenda. All that happened was that Foreign

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Minister 'Amr Musa contacted Damascus, informing them that Minister Shim'on Peres was coming to Cairo and asking them whether they wanted to convey any message to the Israelis — which Damascus considered a failure to coordinate on the Egyptians' part. The reason for the [mildness of the] admonishment is the important positions adopted by Egypt vis-a-vis the Syrian-Israeli negotiations and its support of the "key" to a solution — full withdrawal — in addition to the personal and official relationship between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak, which was reflected last year in monthly summits held in both capitals.

The negative Syrian assessment — in the form of criticisms through official media services — and the summit's effects on several issues, most importantly the possibility of not holding an Egyptian-Syrian summit at present, even though Egyptian sources have been talking about an imminent one, cannot be ignored. However, the official Syrian and Egyptian assessment is not pessimistic vis-a-vis mutual relations. Minister 'Amr Musa denied during his recent visit the existence of any "tension" in the situation between the two countries. And a high-ranking Syrian official told AL-HAYAH that "there is no estrangement" between them. And he pointed out that "matters should take their course, and any laxity would grant the Cairo quadripartite summit other dimensions."

Damascus' failure to express its alarm at the summit, which was expressed [indirectly] in various ways, helped to give the quadripartite summit an institutional dimension. The foreign ministers met in the U.S. capital on the basis of the establishment of a "peace front" — which means that Damascus is bracing itself for further pressures from Washington and the front aimed at forcing it to normalize and sign, regardless of how many of the principles it has been declaring since the launch of the process are going to be achieved. These pressures will be similar to those to which it was exposed in the past vis-a-vis its participation in the multilateral negotiations and the steps to build trust with the Israelis to encourage them to implement a partial withdrawal from the Golan and to promote any potential agreement with Syria.

Damascus wanted as much as possible to put an end to this view, and there have been some indications in this connection recently. It has to some extent succeeded in this respect. And it has remained committed to its main positions on ways of establishing peace with Israel without any rush. "Because time is in our and the nation's favor," according to the Syrian official. He added: "In practice we prefer the current situation to what Israel is asking us to do in its previous proposals."

However, despite all that has happened, Syrian officials are eager to praise the striking official Egyptian positions adopted since President Mubarak took office, because any tension is not in the interests of either, nor is it in the interests of the Arab position, whose priority is the nature of peace with Israel and hence every Arab state's position in the anticipated regional order. Egyptian officials are proud of their role in raising the Israeli nuclear issue before the international conference held to discuss the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in mid-April. And they praise President Mubarak's role in "cooling" the Egyptian-Israeli peace and his refusal to make any visit to Israel since he assumed the presidency, despite the Camp David accords and the "restrictions" which these are imposing on the Egyptian side, first and foremost "the priority" to accept any other agreement concluded with another state.

Damascus is aware of the scale of the pressure to which the Egyptians are exposed as a result of the peace treaty, and the fact that the Egyptian leadership takes account of the U.S. aid issue in any decision it makes, especially as regards the peace issue, in which the U.S. Administration is interested, which is why it is trying to bring together those who signed peace agreements with Israel and Syria, whose negotiation track is faltering and suffering a deadlock.

But Damascus views the nature of Egyptian-Syrian relations in the light of the answer to the following question: Where do the two countries fit in the next regional and international order, and where do the roles of Damascus and Egypt fit in the regional alliances spoken of recently?

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Israel Remains 'Major Enemy'

JN1205182495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Gaza, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, has criticized the self-rule agreement signed with Israel, admitting failure [taqsir] in this agreement. 'Arafat reaffirmed that Israel remains the Palestinians' major enemy, not only now, but also in the future. This is the first time 'Arafat has announced that he shoulders part of the responsibility for the consequences of the self-rule agreement.

'Arafat's remarks came in a speech delivered on his behalf by Palestinian Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn at a news conference organized by the Palestinian Democratic Union Party in Gaza.

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'Arafat Criticizes Israel on Implementation

JN1505121895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 May 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in the Gaza Strip; from the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that what is currently taking place in Jerusalem is an attempt to change its demographic and geographic character. This is rejected not only by the Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, but also by the entire world, he said.

Speaking at an inauguration ceremony of the headquarters of the Palestinian Legislative Council in the al-Rimal quarter in Gaza today, President 'Arafat added: We are eager to safeguard the peace of the brave. However, we also want the other party to adhere to what it has signed and committed itself to before the whole world.

President 'Arafat, who was addressing a number of ministers, dozens of personalities, leaders, and representatives of Arab and foreign countries to the National Authority, described what is happening in Jerusalem as a mess and a clear violation of the resolutions of the United Nations, the Security Council, and international legitimacy. It is also a violation of the agreement signed in Washington.

President 'Arafat recalled the U.S. letter of assurances which stresses that no demographic changes shall be made to Palestinian territory in the transitional stage, particularly to Jerusalem. The president said any change that affects Jerusalem is categorically rejected. He noted his meeting with the ministerial committee on Jerusalem this morning. President 'Arafat further urged the Palestinian people to assume their direct responsibilities by protecting their Islamic and Christian shrines in the holy city, the capital of the Palestinian state.

President 'Arafat added that the path is difficult, long, and arduous. He asserted that the Legislative Council will meet shortly here and in Jerusalem and will fully express the will of the Palestinian people. President 'Arafat said the main building of the Palestinian Legislative Council will be in Jerusalem.

The president spoke about the repeated Israeli attempts to prevent the Palestinian people from achieving their rights and fulfilling their needs by establishing their democratic state and holding elections, as stipulated in the agreement.

The president criticized the Israeli delays and slow action to prevent the implementation of what has been agreed on, especially withdrawal from the populated regions in the West Bank, as a prelude to the holding of the forthcoming legislative elections.

President 'Arafat, who reviewed a guard of honor, stressed that the march of the Palestinian Legislative Council will continue on Palestinian territory freely and democratically.

The president was accompanied by Muhammad Subayh, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council.

'Arafat Spokesman Hails League Role in Expropriation Summit

NC1505114495 Paris AFP in English 1106 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 15 (AFP)— Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority on Monday [15 May] praised the Arab League's moves to hold a summit on Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem.

"We welcome the call by the Arab League and the decision of secretary general 'Ismat Abd-al-Majid to go to Morocco to prepare the summit," 'Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah told AFP.

"It supports the Palestinian cause and shows just how important is the question of Jerusalem and the Moslem holy sites."

'Abd-al-Majid was to go to Morocco on Tuesday to try to persuade King Hassan II to call the summit.

"Israel cannot have both land and peace," 'Abd-al-Majid said in Cairo.

An Arab League official said Egypt, Jordan, the PLO, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Syria were expected to take part.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin pledged Sunday that Israel would seize no more land in east Jerusalem, which it annexed in 1967, but he upheld the latest confiscation of 53 hectares (131 acres) to build homes for Jews.

'Abd-al-Majid said Rabin's decision was "dangerous, because it means that Israel is continuing its aggression and ignoring the feelings of Arab and Islamic countries.

"We cannot keep quiet when faced with this aggression and Israel cannot impose its hegemony on the Arab nation."

The United Nations Security Council was to resume debate on the confiscations later Monday.

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Committee Endorses 'Action Plan' on Jerusalem

JN1505142295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem held a meeting this morning chaired by President 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian National Authority.

The committee discussed the successive developments pertaining to Jerusalem, especially in light of the recent Israeli cabinet decision which stressed Israel's determination to continue the expropriation measures despite the Islamic and Christian reactions throughout the world condemning the Israeli measures and warning against their grave consequences on the entire peace process.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] reviewed the series of contacts he has held on the Arab and international levels to continue the momentum aimed to protect the holy city and save it from the threat to which it is exposed.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Jerusalem Committee, submitted a report on his recent meetings with the Israelis in this regard.

At the end of the meeting, the Ministerial Committee endorsed the immediate action plan on the local, Arab, Islamic, Christian, and world levels. This plan was worked out to confront the developments pertaining to Jerusalem and emphasize the Arab, Islamic, and Christian rights in Jerusalem.

Authority Figure on Land Confiscation, Seeks U.S. Help

NC1605071695 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 May 95

[Telephone interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, minister and secretary general of the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abd-al-Rahim] [passage omitted] Through the Arab League Council session, Morocco, as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and the current chairman of the Arab League session, and the United Arab Emirates foreign minister sought an urgent Security Council session.

As the Security Council discussions began we were surprised to see that 13 countries had agreed on a Security Council session—although we needed only nine for a quorum—with the exception of the United States and one of the banana republics.

We ask the United States, as the real sponsor of the peace process, and since the Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington under the patronage of President Clinton, to force Israel to commit itself to the bases of the peace process and to the U.S. letter of guarantees on the basis of which the Madrid conference was held in 1991.

We ask the United States not to block a Security Council resolution denouncing Israel's confiscation of Arab land and the settlement process in Jerusalem.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Have you conveyed these demands to the United States?

['Abd-al-Rahim] [Words indistinct] through diplomatic channels; written messages; publicly, through all means; and through our delegate at the United Nations to the U.S. representative at the Security Council.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] And the response?

['Abd-al-Rahim] The response so far...[pauses] We hope the United States will be committed to the obligations with which it asked other parties to comply.

We resorted to the Security Council because the United States did not play its role as a sponsor of the peace process and deter Israel from going too far in these hostile measures that contradict the bases of the peace process. We hope the United States will not adopt a stance that could have negative effects in the region, especially if such a stance is one of those that might encourage extremism in the region.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israel has announced that it will not confiscate more land in east Jerusalem although the Israeli assistant chief of Staff declared his country's intention to confiscate scores of kilometers of land owned by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank to open roads for Jewish settlers. How do you interpret these contradictory Israeli statements?

['Abd-al-Rahim] [passage omitted] What the Israeli deputy chief of Staff said is right. The Israeli Government announced often that it will not build new settlements, it will not confiscate new land, and that it will not spend public funds to expand current settlements. But each time, Israel was not contradicting itself, but implementing a plan to pursue settlement, especially in Jerusalem, to undermine Jerusalem's future when a final solution is discussed.

We do not trust these Israeli Government statements that it will halt the confiscation of land and settlement. The Rabin government has said this more than four or five times and each time it pursued its plan. This time the land confiscation is more obvious because it is

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carried out by a government decision and funding, so things are absolutely clear and the Israeli Government's announcement is like a smokescreen—no more no less.

The statements made by the Israeli deputy chief of Staff and Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer that they are continuing to build settlements and confiscate land are correct. The same thing applies to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's statement yesterday on the same issue.

Abu-Mazin on Jerusalem Land Issue, U.S. Embassy Move

MM1605120195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 May 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Mazin Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Jerusalem Red Line That Should Not Be Crossed, and Israeli Measures Violate Oslo Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), has described the Jerusalem issue as a red line that should not be crossed.

He expressed his utmost regret for the U.S. position threatening to use the right of veto if the UN Security Council decides to adopt a resolution condemning Israel for confiscating 53 hectares of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL AWSAT Abu-Mazin stressed that the UN Security Council must support the logical and correct interpretation of the Oslo agreement and back it if either of the parties that signed it tries to violate or breach it. Abu-Mazin, architect of the Oslo agreement, pointed out that "the declaration of principles agreement is based basically on international legitimacy. This is why the Security Council should be its first protector."

Mahmud 'Abbas stressed that recent Israeli measures represent a fundamental violation of the declaration of principles agreement, whose Article 4 stipulates the following: "The council's jurisdiction shall cover the territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, except for issues to be negotiated in the final status negotiations. The parties regard the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as one territorial unit whose unity and safety should be safeguarded during the transitional phase."

Abu-Mazin added that the Israeli measures are a clear violation of Clause 4 of Article 5, which says, "the two parties shall agree that the agreements of the transitional phase should not prejudice or violate the outcome of the permanent status negotiations."

Abu-Mazin pointed out that, if Israel claims that Article 4 of the declaration of principles does not apply to Jerusalem, Article 5 specifically refers to Jerusalem, hence our argument with Israel is based on the agreement signed by both of us, not on general talk.

He said that, if Israel thinks that by these unjustifiable measures it can exploit the Palestinian National Authority's problems and the difficult situation it is currently going through, it (Israel) is mistaken, because, even though the authority is experiencing difficult circumstances, the Jerusalem issue is one of the red lines that should not be crossed. [passage omitted]

On his position of the attempts to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, Abu-Mazin said that merely talking about such an issue prejudices and influences the results of the negotiations. He stressed that this matter weakens the impact of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations vis-a-vis the final phase. It also encourages the Israeli position to violate the declaration of principles, which was signed in Washington in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton and other numerous world figures.

Abu-Mazin said that the attempt to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem conflicts with the U.S. position stated in the letter of assurances sent by Washington to the Palestinians to persuade them to participate in the Madrid peace conference in 1991. This letter stipulates the following: no to annexing Jerusalem, no to partitioning it, and no to altering its features. Abu-Mazin emphasized that "this is the U.S. position, which the honor of the word should preserve."

He added that former President George Bush's administration, which provided $10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel, made it a condition that these loans be spent inside Israel, not in the West bank or Jerusalem.

At the end of his statement Abu-Mazin warned that Israel's persistence in violating the declaration of principles agreement without any intervention or deterrent from the U.S. sponsor will expose the entire peace process in the Middle East to danger.

PLO To Resort to Hague Court If U.S. Embassy Moved

JN1305084395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO has said that it will resort to the International Court of Justice in The Hague if the plan to transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is implemented.

Speaking at a special round of discussion on the Jerusalem issue in the UN Security Council in New

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York, Nasir al-Qudwah, the Palestinian UN representative, denounced the bill to transfer the U.S. Embassy. He said that the Republican bill constitutes a violation of international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

The discussion of the confiscation by Israel of Palestinian land in occupied Jerusalem began last night and will be resumed Monday, the day after tomorrow.

Jean-Bernard Merimee, the French UN envoy and EU spokesman, described the confiscation of the Palestinian lands as a regrettable act that violates the spirit of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. On behalf of the EU, Merimee asked the Israeli Government to rescind its decision and to desist from taking similar measures in the future.

Al-Shaqaqi on Weapons Collection, Vows To Pursue Struggle

JN1505111795 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 15 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, told AL-MAJD over the telephone yesterday that the battle against the Zionist occupation continues throughout occupied Palestine, including the Gaza Strip. He said: We view the Gaza Strip as occupied so long as Israel continues to control it strategically and there is settlement and Zionist presence in it.

In what appears to be a rectification of statements attributed to Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, an Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza, Dr. al-Shaqaqi said: The Oslo accord is not a fact on the ground but a serious crime against the Palestinian people and the entire nation, and we have to confront this crime with all possible means until it is foiled. Otherwise, a gloomy fate awaits our people and the entire nation.

With respect to the handing over of the fighters' weapons, al-Shaqaqi said that this is no more than a fantasy by an authority which is daily being assailed by the occupation and which, in turn, represses and assails the people.

Concluding his statement to AL-MAJD al-Shaqaqi said: We have repeatedly said that we will not hand over our weapons which will remain pointed at the occupation as you will soon see. We also reject any political dialogue with this corrupt authority although we do not object to efforts being made to avert internecine fighting.

Al-Shaqaqi added: We do not object to defusing tension. However, this must be preceded by the release of all detainees from all factions, the cancellation of all the unjust sentences, and the dissolution of the State Security Court, not to mention that the fighters' weapons should not be collected or handed over as this is unlawful. [passage omitted]

'Provocative' Israeli Bridge Searches Denounced

JN1505153795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority [NA] Information Ministry has denounced yesterday's provocative searches by the Israeli bridge authorities of dozens of Palestinian police officers and personnel, along with employees of Palestinian ministries, while crossing the bridge on their way back home.

In a statement issued today, the Information Ministry said the Israeli authorities' measures, in terms of holding, interrogating, and taking pictures of police personnel and employees, are considered a serious and unmatched precedent.

The statement added that these measures are also a crude violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The ministry stressed the NA's rejection of these resented methods of the occupation authorities and demanded that the Israeli officials immediately stop such practices and pledge to refrain from using them in the future.

In another development, the Information Ministry issued a statement on the 47th anniversary of the establishment of Israel. The ministry asserted that the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has proven that Palestinian territory is not a land without a people because a living and civilized people are living on this land. This people have the determination and the will to defend their right to a free and decent life.

The statement discussed the fact that the Palestinian people and their leadership adhere to the option of peace. It said: We call on the Israeli Government to commit itself to international legitimacy and the agreements that provide for redeployment, elections, the release of detainees, and the transfer of all powers.

'Arafat To Visit Jordan, Hold Talks With King Husayn

JN1505184295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to pay an official two-day visit to the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 23 May. Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, said that the talks between President 'Arafat and King Husayn will deal with the distinguished bilateral relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, the confiscation of lands in occupied Jerusalem, and the developments of the peace

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process in light of the Israeli procrastination that threatens to obstruct the entire peace process.

Kanafani indicated that the talks will deal with the coordination of Arab policies to face the challenges.

Two Helicopters Donated by Egypt Arrive in Gaza

NC1105182395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 11 May—Two helicopters given as a gift by Egypt to the Palestinian Authority [PA] arrived in Gaza today heralding the beginning of Palestinian Airlines. The helicopters, each with a capacity of 24 passengers, will be used to ferry PA officials between Gaza and Jericho.

Fayiz Zaydan, director of the Palestinian Civil Aviation, said the arrival of the two helicopters will herald the beginning of the work of Palestinian Airlines in the near future. He said an agreement will be soon signed with Israel on the establishment of an airport in Gaza. He expressed hope that the project will be completed within a short time.

The two helicopters landed at a heliport at the Karni checkpoint between Israel and Gaza.

Transportation between Gaza and Jericho takes place with the approval of the Israeli authorities in accordance with the self-rule agreement signed between the Palestinians and Israel.

Islamic Jihad Leader Released by Authority

TA1305130095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, a senior Islamic Jihad leader released from Gaza prison this morning, says the agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA] is a fact on the ground which is hard to change. Al-Shami was incarcerated after the Bet Lid attack.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 13 May adds: "In the past the general prosecutor in the Gaza Strip had said that al-Shami would stand trial in the special military court set up by PLO leader 'Arafat, but in the end the Islamic Jihad leader was released without a trial."]

Shaykh Nafis 'Azzam, another Islamic Jihad leader, says that al-Shami's release is aimed at easing the tension between the PA and its opponents, but adds that there is no agreement to stop the attacks against Israel. Shaykh 'Azzam says the dialogue with the PA was stopped because 'Arafat's representatives had rejected the Islamic Jihad's demands. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Al-Shaqaqi: Islamic Jihad Operations To Continue

MM1505194495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 May 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Shaqaqi Tells AL-HAYAH: Suicide Operations To Continue. Our Dialogue With Authority Suspended"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Islamic Jihad Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi has stressed that the movement has no intention of suspending military operations "anywhere in occupied Palestine...and that tomorrow is not too far away." He denied the existence of two views in the movement, one of which is for armed actions to be temporarily suspended.

He expected Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami to issue clarifications about his "personal" position on the need to suspend armed action, stressing that "everyone is committed to the movement's official position...and no one has ever violated any of the movement's positions."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Damascus al-Shaqaqi said that the movement's position on "military action in all Palestine is fixed and has never changed. No arms will ever be handed over, and the authority's forces have not until now managed to confiscate a single bullet from Islamic Jihad elements." He pointed out that he believes that "it would be haram [religiously forbidden] for the movement's elements to hand over their weapons, since they are our means in the fight against a historic enemy like the Zionist enemy."

He denied the existence of any change in the movement's policy or the existence of two views among its leaders, saying: "There is no change in our policy, and no political dialogue with the authority. And the field dialogue has been suspended for at least two weeks."

He added that "while (National Authority President) 'Arafat casts doubts on the Oslo agreement and holds himself responsible for the shortcomings, according to a speech delivered on his behalf by Furayh Abu-Middayn, we cannot backtrack on our position on this sinister agreement, which we are trying to topple by all means, including by escalating armed action against the Zionist occupation."

The Islamic Jihad secretary general informed AL-HAYAH two weeks ago of the suspension of the movement's participation in "any field meetings" with Palestinian Authority representatives. He also said that "our participation in field meetings is suspended now, even though we have no objection to participating in

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any attempt to avert in-fighting." And he pointed out that working to prevent the eruption of a civil war among Palestinians "differs from conducting a political dialogue or merely thinking of suspending military action and suicide operations, or handing arms over" to the self-rule police.

He added: "As I have always stressed, we are willing to make every possible effort to avert any internal clash, even if we are forced to meet [with the Palestinian Authority], but without including that in the political dialogue framework. He made the resumption of the meetings conditional on the "authority's release of the Islamic Jihad movement's detainees in addition to the abolition of the unjust sentences, the state security court, and the decision to disarm" the Palestinian opposition. He pointed out that "these are the conditions for any field dialogue. And they do not include a condition that the dialogue should not be public. Because we expressed our willingness to engage in such a dialogue before the authority entered Gaza over a year ago."

He said that the release of Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, one of the movement's leaders in Gaza, "is not sufficient" to resume the dialogue. "All detainees must be released, and the conditions in question must be met." He pointed out that it [the authority] released al-Shami "as a result of the movement's pressure and its condition that the movement's elements be released before a dialogue can be held." He said that they [the authority] thought that this would be sufficient to resume the meetings. "But it is not sufficient at all."

On his view of Shaykh al-Shami's statement on Thursday, not Friday as news agencies reported, al-Shaqaqi said: "Maybe the statement has been distorted, or perhaps he is not fully aware of what has happened over recent months." He was arrested at the end of January following the operation in Bet Lid, north of Tel Aviv, in which about 20 Israeli soldiers were killed. He added that his (al-Shami's) statement that the movement has "temporarily" suspended military operations against Israel does not reflect the movement's view. "It is a personal view, and I expect Shaykh al-Shami to deny any negative impression left by his statement" the day before yesterday.

He stressed that "suicide operations are to continue, and no one has pledged to suspend them anywhere or at any time, and we refuse to hand over the arms." Asked whether the movement has suspended operations under an undeclared agreement with the authority, he said: "Not enough time has elapsed in order for you to see whether or not operations have been suspended." He said: "We have not pledged, nor will we pledge, to anyone to suspend armed action, and tomorrow is not too far away. We are not obliged by any date (to launch operations), neither with the authority on the occupation." He ruled out that al-Shami signed "a pledge not to carry out any actions against the Oslo agreement" as a condition for his release from prison.

On the possible existence of two views inside the movement vis-a- vis, suspending the "armed jihad.," al-Shaqaqi said : "That is impossible. What brother al-Shami said must be ascertained. As I understand it, he expressed his own view, not the movement's." He said that the "brothers in the movement can express personal views, but they are all committed to the organization's view." He added that "no one has ever abandoned the organization's positions. They are usually committed to the movement's view."

Meanwhile, the movement has stressed that it is going to continue to "suspend meetings and the dialogue with the authority until the false media campaign is halted" — a reference to "the baseless allegations and reports" saying that an agreement between the authority and the movement led to Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami's release.

In a statement issued in the self-rule area, a copy of which AL- HAYAH received in Damascus, the movement added a number of conditions to those listed by al-Shaqaqi for resuming the field dialogue: that the authority eliminate "the military manifestations of Palestinian society and pass civil laws guaranteeing the rights of all citizens." And it stressed Islamic Jihad's refusal to suspend military action or hand over weapons. "Because this is the land of pledge and jihad until the Day of Judgment." It said that no meetings have been held for a month between the two sides. "They have been suspended as a result of the media campaign that coincided with the two dialogue meetings held between representatives from the movement and the authority with a view to defusing tension" following the Kefar Darom operation last month.

Islamic Jihad Leader: Attacks Should Stop 'Temporarily'

MM1605100995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Fatinah al-Dajani: "A Jihad Leader Stresses Intention To Suspend Attacks on Israel Temporarily"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, an Islamic Jihad Movement leader, announced following his release in Gaza yesterday morning that "the Jihad Movement should suspend its attacks against Israel temporarily" — which has provoked reactions inside the movement. Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam said that al-Shami's view "does not reflect the movement's policy."

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Marwan Kanafani, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, declined to answer AL-HAYAH's questions about the conditions for al-Shami's release. He said: "His release is a security issue which cannot be discussed." He pointed out that "al-Shami's arrest was prompted by legal reasons which are not subject to interpretations." However, he added that Shaykh al-Shami spent a long time in prison. [passage omitted]

Marwan Kanafani described as untrue what was attributed to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, namely that Israel is the "main enemy" and that "there are shortcomings in the Oslo agreement." He stressed that these statements, said to have been delivered on 'Arafat's behalf by Palestinian Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn, "reflect the minister's personal view." He said that when Abu- Middayn mentioned the word "enemies," he meant "the fanatical Jews only." Kanafani pointed out that he shares Abu-Middayn's view that Israel "is not dealing with the Palestinians as partners, but, rather, as an enemy." He pointed out that "the agreement requires good-intentioned partners, and I do not believe that it (Israel) is dealing with us as partners, but, rather, as an enemy."

Hamas on U.S. Embassy Move, Israeli Land Seizure

NC1505203495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 May 95

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-'Idan] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, you have made threats against the United States if it moves its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. What methods you will use to carry out such threats in the event the United States makes such a reckless decision?

[Ghawshah] A statement was issued yesterday by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, regarding the U.S. Government's intention to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The statement includes some basic points. First of all, such a step would serve Zionist designs. Second, it would be in defiance of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation. Third, such a step, as mentioned in the statement, would be counter to the interests of the United States and the U.S. people. This is a brief summary of the statement.

[Al-'Idan] What methods could be used to confront such a step?

[Ghawshah] First we need to unify the stand of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation in the face of this Zionist-U.S. onslaught. Such unity must be demonstrated at all popular, political, and media levels. In addition, economic cooperation within the Islamic nation will be of considerable help in attaining self-reliance and challenging such steps, which harm the dignity of the Islamic nation.

[Al-'Idan] Rabin has promised not to seize more land in East Jerusalem. How do you view this statement, and how credible is it?

[Ghawshah] We believe that this statement is like bending in the face of the storm that is stirring the entire Islamic nation. But bending means that he will do it again. It has been noticed that the text of the expropriation decision speaks of a halt to building houses. This means that seizures may still be made for other land uses, such as for roads, institutions, and camps. This is a point worth contemplating. Another important point is that this stance is being used to cover up for the original decision; namely, to seize more than 530 dunams north and south of Jerusalem. This expropriation and the insistence on building Zionist installations on them—including houses—prove that Rabin is continuing to pursue his line in defiance of Islamic feelings.

[Al-'Idan] The Arab League has lodged a complaint with the Security Council. The matter was discussed on Friday [12 May] but no resolution has been issued yet. What is your information on this?

[Ghawshah] It has been noted that unfortunately the position adopted by some Arab parties is more credible and more radical than the Palestinian position. In general, this complaint to the Security Council will ultimately collide with the U.S. veto. We are not saying that we do not support taking recourse to the Security Council or the UN, but we must know what to expect and realize that depending on one's own strength is the basis of any movement. We had expected the Palestinian side and some Arab parties to halt the negotiations if they were really sincere about preserving Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic identity.

[Al-'Idan] The self-rule authority has announced the release of some Hamas cadres. How true is this?

[Ghawshah] The Palestinian Authority [PA], unfortunately, continues to arrest more people. Yesterday it arrested and tried a Hamas leader, brother Sayyid Musamih. He is the chief editor of AL-WATAN newspaper. The newspaper has been closed for three months. This decision, which we consider harsh, shows the PA's real intentions. By taking such actions against our people in the self-rule areas, denying them their freedoms, and detaining them, perhaps the PA wants to cover up for Rabin's conspiracy against Jerusalem and the Arab and Islamic nation.

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[Al-'Idan] Thank you very much.

Police Arrest 10 Hamas Activists in Gaza

TA1505183195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police arrested 10 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists today. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that they were arrested in Gaza city and in Jabalyah. The Palestinian police now have approximately 30 Hamas activists and 15 Islamic Jihad supporters under detention.

Court Orders 3-Month Closure of Hamas Publication

TA1505123995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gaza special military court issued an order closing the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] newspaper AL-WATAN for three months because of inflammatory articles it published against the Palestinian Authority.

'Imad al-Faluji, an editor at the newspaper, told our correspondent Yoni Ben Menahem that the move is undemocratic.

The special court last night sentenced editor Sayyid Abu-Musamih to two years in jail for an article he had published.

Hamas Charges Palestinian Authority a 'Dictatorship'

NC1505183195 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 15 (AFP) — The newspaper of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas branded PLO chairman 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority a "dictatorship" on Monday [15 May].

The charge was made in a leaflet distributed on the Gaza Strip a day after 'Arafat's state security court jailed the general manager of AL-WATAN for two years and banned the weekly for three months.

"It's an unprecedented dictatorial measure, a violation of freedom which is intended to silence the media," the leaflet said.

Sayyid Abu-Missanah, 50, was found guilty of incitement to revolt against the Palestinian Authority.

He had been arrested 24 hours earlier and had no time to prepare a defence against the charges or hire a lawyer, AL-WATAN said. The court's decisions cannot be challenged.

AL-WATAN's editor 'Imad al-Faluji said he would ignore the court ruling until he was officially notified.

"If they do not communicate the ruling to me officially, I will continue to publish the newspaper," he told AFP.

He said the ban was not against the newspaper, which appears on Thursdays, but the whole Hamas movement, the main opposition force on the Gaza Strip.

The court action came after the weekly, which employs 15 people, accused the Palestinian police of mistreating Hamas activists in custody.

"It seems the Authority wants the media to acts as its spokesmen," al-Faluji said, noting that several other newspapers had been targeted by the self-rule regime.

"We write only the whole truth and that makes them nervous," he said.

Abu-Missanah is a leading figure in the fundamentalist organization and took part in reconciliation talks with the PLO over the past few weeks.

Hamas and the other main fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad, rejected the Palestinian Authority's order on Sunday to hand in all illegal weapons in a security crackdown following anti-Israeli attacks by both groups in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile Palestinian police arrested one of the founders and top leaders of Hamas along with nine other militants on the Gaza Strip on Monday, said a Hamas official who refused to be named.

Shaykh Muhammad Shamaa', 58, was arrested before dawn at his home in the al-Shatti refugee camp. He helped to found Hamas in 1987 as the intifadah or uprising broke out against Israeli occupation.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Presence in Syria, Return to Gaza

JN1505165795 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 15 May 95 pp 1, 11

[Interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by 'Ali Badwan in Damascus "during 'Id al-Adha"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Badwan] How true are the reports that Syria has asked the [Palestinian] resistance factions to leave Syria?

[Hawatimah] Such reports are trial balloons aimed to test Syria's readiness to bow to U.S.-Israeli pressures, and sabotage the relationship between the steadfast

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forces opposed to the Oslo accord and the other partial deals. These reports are aimed at tainting Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Washington's pressure on Damascus to make it swallow the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah accords, which are modelled on the Camp David accords, has not ceased. Washington seeks to bring about a disengagement between the parties to the common struggle. This pressure is meant to force Damascus to endorse these bitter and poisonous deals so that it may eventually accept a similar deal. The objective is to put Damascus on a par with the other Arab sides. All parties have shunned the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy and the quest for comprehensive peace, which must be based on Resolutions 242, 338, 194, 425, and the land-for-peace formula. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] is a major component of the PLO, and represents a major sector of our people. Given this fact, our political, trade union, and military organizations are widespread in the occupied homeland and in the diaspora as well. We will pursue our quest for comprehensive and balanced peace, drawing strength from these organizations. As for the logistical and administrative facilities we receive in Arab capitals, they are of minor importance. [passage omitted]

Having said all this, I would like to say that we have announced that the reports to this effect published in the newspaper MA'AREV, as aired over Jericho Radio, are baseless trial balloons. The Syrians have also made a statement to this effect. In this regard, I would like to urge people to read the book "Gaza First, the Secret Norwegian Channel," by Jane Coren [title and author's name as published], to see the maneuvers employed by the Israeli negotiating team, particularly Peres, to entrap the Palestinian team at Oslo and force it to accept the Oslo accord. The Israelis forced their dictates on the Palestinian team, threatening that the Palestinians had to accept this and that; otherwise, they would work out an agreement with the Syrians first. [passage omitted]

[Badwan] Your statements on the return of opposition figures, including yourself, to the autonomous areas have drawn great reaction. If you are allowed to return to these areas, will you actually return? What are your conditions for such a return to the autonomous areas?

[Hawatimah] If allowed to return to the autonomous areas, I would certainly do so immediately. The problem is that Rabin has allowed the return of those who support the Oslo accord, and placed insurmountable obstacles to preclude the return of the opposition leaders who are opposed to the Oslo accord, and who are striving to achieve a comprehensive and balanced peace.

Our condition is that the return must be without conditions or constraints. Such a return will materialize thanks to the pressure of the people of the occupied territories. It will be made possible by the predicament of the Oslo accord, and the efforts of all democratic and peace-loving forces on the local and international scenes. The only way out of the Oslo predicament lies in the holding of comprehensive negotiations. Democratic Palestinian forces must be involved in such negotiations, which must be held within the context of Resolutions 242 and 194 and on the basis of the land-for-peace formula.

[Badwan] It is believed that the Palestinian elections will be held in August. Will you take part in these elections, and in the legislative and executive councils of the autonomous authority?

[Hawatimah] Given the provisions enshrined in the Oslo accord and the negotiations taking place in Cairo, Jericho, and Sweden, legislative elections are not in the offing. What is being negotiated is the holding of administrative elections to ensure the implementation of the Oslo accord. The winners in these elections are meant to serve as members of the autonomous council. The membership of this council will total 25-35.

We advocate the holding of free legislative elections under the auspices of Washington, Moscow, and the European Union to elect a national assembly, a parliament, representing our people in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. We are very willing to take part in such elections. We urge the officials supporting the Oslo accord to struggle, along with us, in order to ensure the holding of free political legislative elections. This is better than running after administrative elections to an executive autonomous council.

What is being discussed currently is the holding of elections to an executive council. As for the misrepresentation of facts being carried out by the Palestinian officials supporting the Oslo accord, it cannot mask their own positions, nor can it deceive the Palestinian people forever. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Prime Minister Denies FIS Can Be Rehabilitated

LD1505195995 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview granted to the daily LIBERTE today, Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said that there is no question of the rehabilitation of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], thus implicitly responding to claims made by the Arabic daily AL HAYAT, which last week reported that negotiations were under way at the moment with FIS Chairman Abassi Madani.

Prime Minister Warns Expatriates on False Reports

LD1205131995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our correspondent at the Aurassi Hotel reports that Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi made a speech at the opening of the national conference of the Algerian community resident abroad. [passage omitted]

[Begin Sifi recording] These first sessions, which are listed in the government's program, are an expression of our sincere political will to see the Algerian community abroad giving expression to their preoccupations in complete democracy, strengthening their affinity, bolstering their ties with their homeland, and fully participating in the political, economic, social, and cultural choices facing Algeria. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The prime minister explained that the Algerian community abroad must be conscious of and alert to attempts at maneuvering and misrepresentation:

[Begin Sifi recording] Algerian men and women resident abroad receive sensational news, which is usually contradictory, about what is going on in Algeria. They have therefore become exposed to distortions and rumors both directly and indirectly. They are able to assess matters for themselves since most of them can now receive Algerian television in their homes. But this is no longer enough, and the Algerian community abroad must be aware of and alert to attempts at maneuvering and misrepresentation.

The situation in Algeria, thanks to the grace of God Almighty, is improving. [passage omitted]

Our country needs us in this decisive stage. Algeria will only be what its people want it to be. [end recording]

FIS Wing Accuses GIA of 'Disfiguring' Jihad

MM1205120195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 95 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Salah Jamil in London and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Washington: "Algerian Salvation Army Accuses Armed Group of 'Disfiguring Jihad'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The months-long tension between the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] and the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], its military wing, on the one hand and the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] on the other, has intensified and so has the war of leaflets and statements between them. After last week's statement, attributed to the GIA, giving the FIS leaders abroad one month to join its ranks or face the measures it would take against them, a bulletin issued by the FIS has attacked the GIA accusing it of "disfiguring the jihad image" and "going too far in its excesses" as reflected in its recent threats to kill the mothers, wives, and daughters of members of the Algerian Army and security forces.

The EL TABSERAH bulletin, issued today, gave a reminder of the appeals made by Madani Merzak, the AIS national amir, in which he condemned the killing "of elderly people, children, and women," and especially his 1 April appeal "in which he emphasized that, unlike the parallel jihad organization, the AIS mujahidin are fighting a man's war and do not kill elderly people, children, or women." A bulletin issued by the FIS Executive Committee abroad on 19 March said that the FIS "condemns and dissociates itself from criminal acts against women, young girls, elderly people, and children."

The bulletin added: "But the parallel jihad organization did not get the message and continued with its excesses, threatening to kill the mother, sister, or daughter with whom a renegade fighter lives." It continued: "That threat distorts the image of jihad and causes resentment against the tolerant Islamic religion," and " fatwas [edicts] and theatrical operations targeting the lives of women and children and justifying them on the basis of the Shari'ah [Islamic law] only serve the interests of the [ruling] clique."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission [abroad], said that the statement attributed to the GIA "is not genuine at all. It is unfounded and false. In the context of the FIS we still support the mujahidin. Such false statements are mere attempts to silence the free voices which support jihad abroad."

Haddam added: "Those behind the attempts to silence these voices, whether in the regime or outside the

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regime, considering what the Algerian press has been saying for days, want to create a problem as we prepare to celebrate the first anniversary of the unification of the major jihad factions and the GIA mujahidin on 13 May 1994."

Haddam continued: "The regime does not want us to talk about that blessed occasion, and that false statement is part of the attempts to prevent us from doing so." He reaffirmed that "we will proceed on the road and, as instructed by our leadership at home, we will continue our political work in search of a political solution, and we will help our brothers the mujahidin who are carrying out their military jihad duties because the regime still refuses to accept the Rome covenant which is the only basis for a political solution."

On his expectations following Jacques Chirac's victory in the French presidential elections and whether it will have an effect on the Algerian crisis and its resolution, Haddam said: "We prefer not to indulge in expectations but we hope that a new leaf will be turned over between the governing institutions in the interests of both countries and in the interest of the region and its security and stability."

Meanwhile, the AIS fighters have continued their attacks on bridges in an attempt to paralyze the government economically. According to today's edition of EL FATH EL MUBIN bulletin, issued by its battalions (in the central region), two bridges have recently been destroyed in Bel Abbes, one bridge destroyed in the area of Massoum in Blida province, three bridges destroyed in El Beteina province, and one bridge destroyed in Tissimsilt province.

National Secretary of Mujahedin Organization Killed

LD1505210495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the criminal operation that claimed the life of Mujahed (Ismail Lesber), national secretary of the National Mujahedin Organization, a statement issued by the minister of war veterans announced that the body of the late (Ismail Lesber) will be taken tomorrow at 1000 from his house to the headquarters of the National Mujahedin Organization to pay last respects and then will be transported to El Alia cemetery, where he will be buried at midday on 16 May.

Court Sentences 13 to Death for 'Terrorist' Acts

LD1605084195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Sunday [14 May] the criminal court of Bouira sentenced in absentia 13 persons to death. They were found guilty of setting up an armed terrorist group, undermining the state's security, and for being in possession of explosives. Five persons were acquitted by the same court.

Niger Prime Minister Offers Thanks for Peace Efforts

LD1505142195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hama Amadou, prime minister of the Niger Republic arrived in Algiers this morning on a two-day working and friendship visit to our country at the invitation of Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi.

The Niger official was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne international airport by Prime Minister Sifi.

Algeria's guest is expected to hold talks this afternoon with the prime minister. During his visit to our country he will also be received by head of state Liamine Zeroual.

On arrival, the Niger prime minister made the following statement:

[Begin Amadou recording in French with superimposed Arabic translation] My visit comes within the framework of the armed rebellion Niger had been experiencing four years ago, to which Algeria had a role in resolving on 24 April by signing a peace treaty.

The Niger Government believes that thanks to the tolerance, understanding, and efforts rendered by the Algerian authorities the peace treaty was implemented. Therefore, it is natural that I allocate my first visit as the prime minister of Niger to Algeria in appreciation of the efforts made by the Algerian authorities to implement this treaty despite all its national problems and concerns.

Ihave insisted on coming personally to express our gratitude and satisfaction to the Algerian people and authorities for their participation in implementing Niger's unity. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Musa on Call for Arab Summit, Israeli Measures

NC1505213095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed hope that the ongoing contacts will succeed in arranging for a limited Arab summit as soon as possible to discuss the future of Jerusalem. He added that the risks facing the Arab nations in these circumstances have become clear to everybody, and this requires quick coordination and

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consultation among the various Arab parties to deal with these risks.

In remarks to AL-AHRAM to be published in its Tuesday [16 May] issue, the foreign minister points out that out of self respect the Arab peoples, governments, and officials must think about genuine pan-Arab interests and not about petty or marginal differences. This necessitates the need for Arab coordination in all fields, he added. He noted that the success of the expected Arab summit may open doors serving overall Arab interests, which require further efforts.

Musa pointed out that at present we are witnessing positive Arab coordination, as positively demonstrated in the handling of the Israeli nuclear program. He noted that Israel's policies and arbitrary measures have contributed toward this Arab coordination. Musa added that the call for the Arab minisummit has come at the initiative of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and with the support of President Husni Mubarak. He noted that President Mubarak's initiatives to close the Arab ranks—both by holding the tripartite summit in Alexandria involving himself, Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and by backing the call for a minisummit to discuss the future of Jerusalem—shows Egypt's deep commitment to the important pan-Arab causes and the need for Arab consultation about them.

The foreign minister pointed out that the question of Jerusalem is the main topic on the agenda of the proposed summit, which will discuss the entire peace process, adding that the nuclear issue is a major factor in the future peace, stability, and equitable security in the region. Musa added that Egypt has stressed and continues to stress that the required peace is not an Israeli peace. A peace acceptable to Egypt and all the Arabs is a balanced and just Arab-Israeli peace, he added. In this regard, we do not agree for the Security Council to be prevented from issuing a strong and specific resolution on Israel's recent measures in Jerusalem, we do not accept that Israel can be exempted from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and we do not accept an Israel halt to implementing its commitments as outlined in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. All these things, he added, will obstruct the real peace process and make the Arabs and non-Arabs lose their credibility internationally.

Musa: Israeli Land Seizure Undermines Peace Process

NC1505132995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt's stance will remain firm in opposing any Israeli measures in Jerusalem.

In a statement today, Musa described the Israeli Government's approval of the confiscation of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem as "a defiance of public feeling, undermining the peace process in a direct way." He noted that contacts are under way to hold a meeting of the Jerusalem committee to discuss this subject. He explained that Arab and Islamic delegations in New York are also holding contacts with other delegations to discuss this issue before the Security Council.

Musa said experts from Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel will hold a meeting in Beersheba on 7 June to finish discussing the issue of Palestinian displaced persons.

Opposition Daily Demands Halt to Peace Talks

NC1605084395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA) — The opposition newspaper AL-WAFD has demanded that the Middle East peace talks be stopped. The paper said there can be no peace while Israel continues its aggression on Arab rights; there can be no peace with the continuing humiliation of Arab dignity; and there can be no peace while Israel has superiority and is allowed to own destructive nuclear weapons.

The newspaper, the mouthpiece of the opposition Wafd Party, stated in its editorial today that this stance is the one all the Arabs must take.

AL-WAFD condemned the international community's silence over Israel's crimes and the expropriation of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem. The paper said: It is strange that the current Israeli occupation of land in Jerusalem comes amid the problems being raised over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty conference and Israel's superiority, its not being forced to sign, at least, to guarantee the continuation of the peace march.

It added: In these circumstances in particular the international community appeared as though it was rewarding Israel despite its aggressive steps against the Arab residents and territories.

Concluding its editorial, the newspaper asked what we are doing: Will we be satisfied with submitting a new

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memorandum to the Security Council, a second one to the Arab League, a third to the Jerusalem Committee, and yet another to the Organization of the Islamic Conference?

Dailies Support Call For Arab Summit on Jerusalem

NC1605082795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA) — The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH are calling for an emergency Arab summit to discuss Israel's latest arbitrary measures to annex Palestinian Arab land in east Jerusalem. In an editorial today AL-AHRAM says it is important to hold a summit now for several reasons, most importantly, to demonstrate insistence that Jerusalem, its status, and demography are extremely important for the Arab interests. The summit will also send a message to the big global powers to reconsider their stance and confront the various attempts aimed at infringing the status of the city, attempts such as the U.S. Government's efforts with the U.S. Congress and its attempts to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The paper says that should a summit be held, it would express deep popular concern throughout the Arab world over this pivotal issue. It would also appeal to the Islamic peoples worldwide. What matters is not merely the convening of an Arab summit but the importance of the topic at issue.

In an editorial on the same theme, AL-JUMHURIYAH says the convening of an Arab summit will be considered a positive new card that will change the picture of the discussions and the possible results regarding the Palestinian issue internationally and will combine all the elements of strength in the Arab position. It says that a unified Arab stance will make the Israeli negotiator feel there is an effective power backing it, capable of convincing the others, notably the two superpowers and cosponsors of the peace process, not to deal with the issue with double standards and that a fair and comprehensive peace is indivisible. More important, it would place all parties on the path outlined by international laws and legitimacy, which would spare much effort and time and put the issue in its proper perspective.

AL-AKHBAR Editor Assails U.S. Policy on Israel

NC1605091295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA) — AL-AKHBAR has described the UN Security Council as a "private security council" working for Israel by not denouncing Israel or by passing nominal resolutions that Israel brushes aside.

AL-AKHBAR's chief editor, Jalal Duwaydar, in an article in Tuesday's [16 May] issue, says that all this takes place on the grounds of Israel's control and domination of the political decisionmaking of the world's greatest country. He emphasizes that emerging from this diabolic circle requires a shock to awaken the oppressive aggressors.

Duwaydar calls on Washington to sense that its interests and dealings in the Arab region are threatened if it continues to support aggression.

He says Washington's act confirms its insistence on using double standards, even in determining what the Security Council should discuss and approach.

He adds that the United States has forgotten that this Council is the same one it used to punish and blockade Iraq after its aggression against Kuwait. The United States has also forgotten that it is the same Security Council that passed a resolution imposing an economic blockade on Libya under U.S. influence and pressure.

Duwaydar criticizes a statement by Edward Gnehm, deputy chief of the U.S. delegation at the United Nations. Duwaydar says no one is unaware that the aim of this "U.S. buffoonery biased toward Israel" represents procrastination and that it hampers and prevents the Security Council from carrying out its responsibilities to preserve peace and security in the Middle East.

He adds: This is the same old U.S. argument. It does not go in line with justice or with the principles of international legitimacy and has been expressed by U.S. chief delegate Madeleine Albright in a bid to protect Israel from any Security Council condemnation.

The writer describes Israel's measures with support from Washington as flagrant encouragement of extremism and terrorism and a call to fuel the fire raging in the souls of nations. He warns that this will blow up the entire region and cause destruction to all its countries and all the interests with which it is dealing.

Duwaydar calls on the United States to realize that patience has run out, that nations' submission to injustice cannot continue, and that it should act quickly and wisely to prevent things from deteriorating.

He expresses his hope that the Arab and Islamic nation will move positively and effectively to ward off this danger that has compromised the dignity of every Arab and Muslim. He also says he hopes efforts to convene a limited Arab summit called by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will succeed.

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Commentary Views Land Seizure; UN, U.S. Roles

NC1505154195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 May 95

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "The Settlement Crisis Confronts the Security Council With Its Responsibilities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab and world publics and peace-loving people everywhere are waiting for the results of the UN Security Council's debate over Israel's expropriation of land in Arab Jerusalem in a measure described as another obstacle to peace.

Israel's confiscation of a large tract of East Jerusalem land reflects its covert intentions regarding the city and its determination to implement a progressive settlement plan ending in the annexation of Arab Jerusalem.

Certainly all of Israel's measures in Arab Jerusalem since 1947 [as heard] contradict international law and UN resolutions. Israel has customarily flouted all such resolutions. The United Nations, in its turn, failed to pass executive decisions on Jerusalem, leaving its resolutions to pile up ineffectually. Israel has persisted in its policies without impediment or practical protest from the world community and its political apparatus, the Security Council.

The United States and Western European countries are calling for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but peaceful methods are made futile by Israel's failure to abide by international law. The recent hostile settlement decision complicates the already critical situation on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track and demonstrates that the Israeli Government does not adhere to the agreements it signs.

The question is no longer who is to blame for ruining the peace process but who can save it.

Egypt has publicly condemned this new Israeli violation of international conventions and of the agreement with the Palestinians. President Mubarak has strongly warned Israel about its expropriation of Arab land, particularly in East Jerusalem, affirming that this step has brought the Middle East peace operation to its lowest point. The Arab League has condemned the Israeli measure, maintaining that it is null and void, and has held the UN Security Council responsible for defending security, peace, and stability in this region and safeguarding the Palestinian people's rights.

However, the salvation of the peace process is basically the task of the U.S. Administration, which is well conversant with the event and its implications. It knows that the Arabs have offered all they can for the sake of peace. The U.S. Administration must play a positive role. It must offer advice to its ally and tell it that it will be the only loser if the peace process falters.

Daily Attacks Israeli Land Grab, U.S. Embassy Move

NC1505062195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Transliterated Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA) — The newspaper AL-AHRAM states that Israel's successive decisions to expropriate Palestinian land in east Jerusalem and its feverish attempts to make the U.S. Senate pass a bill to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem place another obstacle in the way of peace and even endanger the entire process. In an editorial in its Monday [15 May] edition, the paper says this difficult situation that Israel has created can be resolved through several alternatives. First, Israel could back down on its decision to expropriate Palestinian land. This would be difficult, because Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made this decision at this time to increase his chances of winning the elections; the thinking was that he would lose if he repealed this decision. Second, the Palestinians, Arabs, and armed men could accept what the Rabin government has done and will do in Jerusalem. This would be impossible even if the UN Security Council fails to stand by the Arab rights as a result of a U.S. veto. In this case, the Arabs will have some pressure cards, such as halting the normalization of relations with Israel.

Third, there is another reasonable way out of this predicament — freezing the Israeli decision. The paper says that Rabin, whose rigid measures find him outbidding his rivals in the Likud Bloc, could accept this way out if the freeze is made part of a deal to move immediately to the negotiations on the final status of the occupied Palestinian territories. The paper says this measure would extricate the peace process from its impasse and give it new momentum.

Paper: NPT Conference Members Might Regret Decision

NC1605080995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA) — The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has said that the day when the members of the Security Council and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] conference feel regret over their failure to find a just solution to the problem of extending the NPT may not be very far away.

The newspaper pointed out that the members of the Security Council did not address the real problems behind the decision they issued at the end of their

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meetings. This decision disappointed many countries, particularly with regard to finding a common language between the countries that own huge nuclear arsenals and the nonnuclear countries, and did not alleviate the grave concerns gripping the majority of world countries that do not own these kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

The newspaper affirmed in a comment it published today that the countries behind the decision the NPT conference adopted are mistaken if they imagine that they have realized a victory which they believe will eliminate one of the most dangerous problems the international community will be facing in the next few years before the end of the 20th century, particularly since the conference ignored the need to compel all Middle Eastern countries to join the NPT without exception.

The newspaper affirmed that the NPT conference's decision did not contain a paragraph that helps ease the tensions and suspicions of nonnuclear countries around the world. The character of bias and flattery in the conference's final statement could increase the worries and doubts. This, of course, is in addition to the most dangerous result, which is that it might cause the start of a nuclear race among countries fearing the danger of their neighboring countries which own and cling to this lethal weapon.

Sudan

Former President Numayri Criticizes Regime

95AF0073A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19 Mar 95 pp 37-42

[Interview with former President Ja'far Numayri by Abd-al-Latif al-Manawi in Cairo; date not given — first paragraph is AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The office of former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri is in a relatively old neighborhood of Cairo, where the English slaughterhouse was. He uses this office to receive his visitors, and, from this office, he also conducts his own affairs and the affairs of the opposition, as he says. The dialogue with the former Sudanese president went on for two days. The Sudanese people once supported Numayri, but then they turned against him in a popular uprising that was the biggest in Sudan's history. Nevertheless, Numayri still thinks that even if he personally does not return, his regime, which he calls the May regime, will return. He still talks about Sudanese affairs and says he is leading an effective opposition. AL-MAJALLAH held a long dialogue with Numayri on the current situation in Sudan, the period of his rule, and his relations with Hasan al-Turabi, Siwar al-Dhahab, and others.

[Al-Manawi] Reports have long been suggesting that the present Sudanese regime will fall very soon, whereas it seems that it is entrenching itself day by day. What is your opinion?

[Numayri] First: I think that the regime will fall. I personally do not think that a government authority exists in Sudan, because a government authority should either be backed by the people or by strong resources and close friendships with other states. The people in Sudan do not back this regime and do not support this government. They keep quiet because the government is suppressing the people through attacks, severe punishments, or unlawful displacement. Umar al-Bashir's regime is trying to delude the world that it is backed by the people, but this is absolutely untrue.

Second: The regime is economically and financially weak. The budget deficit is enormous, and this means the regime is about to collapse. Some government employees have not received their salaries for many months. I do not want to talk about prices and the situation in the market, because this is something unbelievable. I left Sudan when the dollar was 4.75 pounds. When al-Bashir seized power from the parties, the exchange rate quickly went up to 12 or 13 pounds. Al-Bashir said then that had he not seized power, the dollar would have gone up to 20 pounds. Now, the dollar rate is more than 550 pounds. The government has no foreign trade plan, and there is no production to bring in money or other benefits for the services sector.

Third: The regime has no foreign relations. Only a few countries maintain relations with Sudan, and they do this to promote their own interests. Iran, for example, thinks that supporting Sudan will lead to the establishment of an Islamic alliance in the world.

Fourth: Security. There is no security in Sudan. One cannot live outside the areas where government forces are deployed. One cannot also live in certain areas of the capital. There is no personal security, food security, or medical security. Diseases are rampant. Also, there is no security when moving from one place to another. This situation has dampened any desire to rule Sudan. One has to think 20 times before making any move in this direction.

[Al-Manawi] In your opinion, does this explain the reluctance of the opposition at home and abroad to deal with the existing situation now?

[Numayri] This is one reason that makes people reluctant to assume power in Sudan.

[Al-Manawi] Are you among the reluctant ones?

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[Numayri] No. As a Sudanese citizen, I think I must contribute. I cannot see someone bleeding to death and do nothing. I must give him assistance and water to revive him. Sudan is dying. We must not leave it in this turbid situation as long as we can do something to help.

[Al-Manawi] How will you do this?

[Numayri] The method is secret. The objective is to oppose everything that happens in Sudan. I am doing everything I can, but do not ask me about the measures and the activity. I cannot reveal this to you.

I oppose the ruling regime in my own way. I do not want to carry arms, because I do not think a guerrilla warfare in Sudan is appropriate for me. It will not lead to any real results. I know that Sudan is suitable for guerrilla warfare. The terrain consists of desert, forests, mountains, rivers, and swamps. All these are suitable for guerrilla warfare. However, such a war can only hurt the livelihood of the free Sudanese people, who are being oppressed by the existing regime.

[Al-Manawi] Do you maintain contacts with people in Sudan?

[Numayri] I maintain contacts with the Sudanese people at home and abroad.

[Al-Manawi] Are your secret methods designed to alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people temporarily?

[Numayri] They are designed to alleviate the suffering permanently.

[Al-Manawi] Can these methods result in your return to power?

[Numayri] This is not what is important. There is a prevailing misconception that I am working for this purpose. I am not working to return to power, but to solve this problem.

[Al-Manawi] Do you think that a return to the May regime can save Sudan?

[Numayri] So far I have not seen any system that can save Sudan. All of them take the country backward. More than 10 years have passed since the May regime. The world and world politics have changed. The relations that existed between Egypt and Sudan were very close. We were almost like one country. We devised a plan to promote these relations and to prevent them from reaching the stage they have reached now.

[Al-Manawi] Why does no alternative to the existing regime exist?

[Numayri] The situation in Sudan is deteriorating. A deterioration normally takes place gradually. However, in Sudan, the situation is deteriorating quickly. This is unparalleled in other countries.

[Al-Manawi] I have heard this about the regime in Sudan for more than four years. The only thing I found so far is that the regime is entrenching itself?

[Numayri] What are four years to a state or a regime? What do four years or even 40 years mean to a state? Do you think that I am dreaming when I say that I will achieve what I want after a while?

I maintain close relations with the big states, and I could have done many things. But whose interest would I be serving? Should I sell out my homeland? I was afraid to fight the people. Opposition leaders were fighting me and training opposition fighters with weapons from abroad. They sought the assistance of some states. They wanted masters from outside the country, as al-Sadiq al-Mahdi did when he sought the help of the Libyans. Do you think that Libya would have succeeded in Sudan after having failed in Chad?

I was dealing with many countries. They were giving me weapons, money, and support. But did they give this to me free, or did they expect something in return in the future? Did I sell Sudan out to remain in power or could I do this now to regain power? No. I say let the present government collapse, not by my strength, but by the strength of the Sudanese citizen. This is the proper collapse before the proper fall.

[Al-Manawi] What is the purpose of your visits to London from time to time?

[Numayri] I visit London, because I consider it the mirror of a fair media. A large Sudanese community exists there. I visit London also for some personal reasons, to arrange for my livelihood, as I do not have an income or money. I arrange for my livelihood with the brother Sudanese there.

[Al-Manawi] A personal question: How do you manage your livelihood in Egypt?

[Numayri] I live on contributions from Sudanese brothers and relatives. I receive various assistance. What is in excess of my personal needs I spend on political activity.

[Al-Manawi] What is your evaluation of the work of the Sudanese opposition abroad?

[Numayri] It is weak, because it depends on old parties.

[Al-Manawi] What can the opposition do then?

[Numayri] Forget the old parties.

[Al-Manawi] But opposition leaders are active now?

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[Numayri] They have become refugees abroad. The Sudanese people can be reunited if a person acts as an individual, expresses his views, and resists the regime at home. The regime has succeeded in dispersing and displacing the Sudanese in various Arab countries, Europe, and the United States. A Sudanese has become a rejected refugee. By its bad actions, the government has made the world view the Sudanese the way it had viewed the Palestinian before the peace talks. Many states no longer admit Sudanese. If they do allow them in, the procedures are difficult. Had I not held an Egyptian passport, I would have faced difficulties entering London. Every state has its own methods to prevent the entry of Sudanese. The Sudanese government has ruined the reputation of the Sudanese people.

[Al-Manawi] Do you maintain contacts with the other opposition forces abroad?

[Numayri] I only maintain contacts with sincere Sudanese. This office is a meeting place.

[Al-Manawi] Do these sincere Sudanese include party leaders?

[Numayri] Absolutely not. I maintain contacts with them in their personal capacity.

[Al-Manawi] Do you have contacts, for example, with Ahmad Uthman al-Mirghani, Mubarak al-Mahdi, or anyone else?

[Numayri] There is no contact. However, I sent them letters to come in their personal capacity to discuss the situation in Sudan, which is sick and bleeding, and find a solution. The problem is that every party leader wants a solution different from the other. We want to agree on a single solution. Therefore, I think that partisanship is rejected in Sudan.

[Al-Manawi] Do you favor a formula like the one proposed by the Algerian National Liberation Front, for example?

[Numayri] No, not at all. I favor a Swiss system—that is, different parts speaking different languages. Switzerland is a small country, with German, French, and Italian speaking regions. Yet, they are all united. The government's objective is to safeguard personal, intellectual, and other freedoms. Religion has no place in state functions. Switzerland is a small country, but has the most money in the world, in the sense that Swiss banks are the world bank.

[Al-Manawi] You were the first president to apply the Islamic shari'ah in Sudan. Do you think that such a method could have prevented your regime from falling?

[Numayri] We were hoping so. When I decided to apply the Islamic law and said this is the shari'ah and we must implement it, I was wrong, because those who were applying it were the ones who betrayed it. How could they apply the shari'ah when they had no religion? Later, these people said that they were conducting unfair trials to make people hate Numayri and that they have succeeded. I think that Islamic laws respect the humanity of mankind. These people have turned Islam into a terrorist religion.

[Al-Manawi] Did you realize this at the time?

[Numayri] I did not realize it. Nevertheless, there were some positive results. The drinking of alcoholic beverages stopped or almost stopped. The crimes committed in the year in which the shari'ah was applied were fewer than in the previous or subsequent years. There were obstacles, because many Islamic states were afraid for themselves. The shari'ah was only applied in Saudi Arabia. The other states were looking to see how the new Sudanese law will work.

[Al-Manawi] What were the reasons that led to the suspension of this law?

[Numayri] We depended on hypocrits led by the Muslim Brotherhood [MB], some party leaders, and some officers whom I appointed to high positions. This was a deadly mistake. One of the officers was Siwar al-Dhahab, whom I thought was the serpent's head. He sold himself after six hours from my departure, and I am the one who made him a commander. I thought he was a religious man who respected his oath. Together we waged a struggle against the communists, who accused him of being a communist when he was a commander and sent a cable supporting the communist coup led by Hashim al-'Ata. I was deceived by him. Why? Because I was taught the Koran by his family, who were our neighbors then.

[Al-Manawi] When did your relationship with Hasan al-Turabi begin?

[Numayri] Since we were students.

[Al-Manawi] Tell us how did it start and what was your opinion of him then?

[Numayri] We were students in high school. He always worked as my subordinate in various jobs in boarding schools. We lived together. I was the head of the dormitory, and he worked with me. When I came to power, I found out that he was the head of the MB and had been held in detention for long periods. I proposed a general reconciliation plan for all the Sudanese from a position of strength. He accepted the reconciliation and

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came to me. I did not let him down. I only learned that he had become a prominent leader after I left Sudan.

[Al-Manawi] Did you have any contacts with him between high school and until you came to power?

[Numayri] No, because he was in a different field than mine. He was preparing himself to become a university teacher. We met accidentally during that period.

[Al-Manawi] What was the result of the first meeting after reconciliation?

[Numayri] Nothing happened. There was nothing extraordinary about our meeting. I presented the national reconciliation plan to all the Sudanese, and he supported it. He said: We are with Numayri, because we work from within. My response was ordinary. I thought that he was a stupid man.

[Al-Manawi] What made you turn against the MB leaders and put them in prison?

[Numayri] One month before they were arrested, they held meetings, violating a decision that we made to suspend all parties. Before my departure to the United States, I ordered the pertinent authorities to adopt the necessary measures, and they were arrested. I was supposed to consider their case after my return from the United State. However, I did not return to Sudan, but stayed in Cairo. A large number of MB leaders were being held in prison then.

[Al-Manawi] Was there any connection between their detention and the visit of U.S. Vice President George Bush at the time?

[Numayri] I never received any instructions or conditions from any state. Such claims are unacceptable. Even if there was a world war, I would not accept instructions neither from the United States nor from any other country.

[Al-Manawi] To what extent do you think yourself responsible for strengthening the MB in Sudan?

[Numayri] When I left Sudan, the MB led by al-Turabi was very weak. It lacked a popular and organizational base. The problem is that some Muslims and Muslim leaders in the world, whom God blessed with money, may have supplied the MB with funds to promote Islam, thinking that this is a jihad for God.

[Al-Manawi] Dr. al-Turabi has recently stated that the MB was fighting the heads of corruption in your regime and that the principal corruption heads were the closest to you. He also stated that he had advised you to remove one of these elements to prove your credibility in fighting corruption. He said that you removed this official, but later you reinstated him in his position. Were the Islamists really fighting against corruption?

[Numayri] Regrettably, they were the corruption. I would like to say to you that the percentage of corruption in my regime was 0.51 percent, which is negligible. The proof is that after we left office, all the institutions, including the National Islamic Front [NIF], tried to bring members of my regime to trial, but failed. They sentenced two people unjustly after charging them with 45 counts of corruption. These unfounded charges were taken from newspapers. After they sentenced them to 100 years and 99 years, which is unusual, they released them after one or two years.

[Al-Manawi] Did al-Turabi occasionally advise you to combat corruption?

[Numayri] Regrettably, al-Turabi did not give me any advice. He was engaged in other matters when he was serving as justice minister, a post he held at my request. He emptied the ministry of qualified people. For example, a lawyer was working faithfully and receiving a small salary. Al-Turabi finds him a job abroad with a salary 20 times higher than what he was earning. The lawyer comes to me and says: "I was offered a job in this place. I do not own a house or a car, and I want to educate my children. I want a three-year leave of absence to work abroad." He placed me in an awkward position. If I turned his request down, someone else would take the job, and I would have been unfair to him. Therefore, I would allow him to leave and work abroad. However, al-Turabi was achieving his objective by emptying the justice ministry of qualified people and replacing them with MB members. This is the kind of advice I was getting from al-Turabi. I only knew the significance of what was going on after I had left.

[Al-Manawi] Al-Turabi accused you of wanting to exploit Islam by making yourself a popularly chosen imam. He also accused you of trying to choose a successor to rule Sudan. What is the story about you wanting to become an imam?

[Numayri] This has never happened. I never asked to become an imam. The Sudanese people know that I was not interested in this and did not want to renew my term in office. Al-Turabi is aware of this. I was an ordinary Muslim. I never claimed that I was proficient in Islamic studies and Islamic philosophy. I also never claimed that I was memorizing the Koran and the Prophet's sayings. This is the product of his imagination. After we issued the Islamic laws, we regularly went to political meetings in which the people expressed their support for us. If al-Turabi insists that this was a pledge of support for me to become an imam, I do not know even what are the conditions for such a pledge. Al-Turabi also knows that

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I have no sons, daughters, or even friends to succeed me or to appoint as imams. I knew all the people and treated them equally. The proof is that I had no relatives in the cabinet except one, who became minister of housing, because of his qualifications. He was my brother-in-law. He was older than me and more knowledgeable in his field. He was the director of the Sudanese land authority before he was appointed as minister. Al-Turabi has admitted that this man was fair and honest. He never gave a piece of land to a friend or a relative to live on unless they were entitled to it.

[Al-Manawi] Is it possible to say that the al-Ansar were the ones who embellished the imamate issue to you?

[Numayri] They embellished it for themselves, because this is what they wanted. I wonder in what capacity does al-Turabi rule Sudan today? He is ruling in the Khomeyni style. The government and everyone else listen to him. This is the imamate they were after. I was not like that. I personally tried to solve the problems of the people, and I never tried to become an imam for the people. They are competing for the imamate, and this is an extraordinary responsibility. An imam carries all the sins of the people praying behind him.

[Al-Manawi] You met with al-Turabi publicly in 1979 while you were in power. Do you remember this meeting?

[Numayri] No, I do not remember it. The meeting between us was ordinary, and al-Turabi's name never meant anything to me then.

[Al-Manawi] Do you think that Hala'ib is Egyptian or Sudanese?

[Numayri] It is Egyptian according to international law and legitimacy and according to international agreements.

[Al-Manawi] Why do you think the present regime has raised this issue?

[Numayri] It has raised this issue to divert the Sudanese people's attention from their domestic problems. Regrettably, a former Sudanese prime minister tried to raise the same issue, but failed. The present regime has tried again, thinking that the Sudanese people will support it on such an issue.

[Al-Manawi] Can the situation between Egypt and Sudan escalate over this issue to the point of armed conflict?

[Numayri] It is difficult to imagine that a conflict will take place for two reasons. The first is that the Sudanese government does not have the power or a strong army to confront the army of even a small state—let alone Egypt, whose army is considered one of the strongest. The second is that the Egyptian army has never harbored—particularly in our days—any hostile intentions against the Sudanese Army. On the contrary, in my days, we unified the training methods and military terms and achieved practical integration between the two armies. I can say that I used to take a great deal from the budget of the Egyptian Army for the Sudanese budget. Many Egyptian and Sudanese officers studied together in local and foreign schools. We had the lion's share in the Egyptian Army's training budget. We always got help from Egyptian technicians to repair equipment that developed faults. We developed our relations in most fields, including the military and even the medical. A Sudanese officer and soldier in Egypt paid a reduced fare to ride the trains. Because of these strong relations, I do not expect a conflict to take place between the Sudanese and Egyptian Armies at any time.

[Al-Manawi] Do you have any information about training camps for extremist and terrorist movements in Sudan?

[Numayri] These matters are naturally kept secret. When such camps are uncovered, the officials quickly stop any activity. In other words, if reports about the location of a camp appear, the responsible officials would immediately remove such a camp.

Training camps did exist. Foreign experts used to come not to train the armed forces but to train people on terrorist warfare. These people also maintained a number of arms stores. I know that a large number of non-Arabic speaking foreigners received Sudanese citizenship for this purpose.

[Al-Manawi] What is your opinion about al-Turabi's contacts and his international relations?

[Numayri] As I explained earlier, some international networks and institutions think that Islamic propagation would benefit if Islamic institutions maintained control over governments. Perhaps they were encouraged to think so by the NIF's [expansion not given] control over Sudan and its government. For this reason, al-Turabi was appointed secretary general of Islamic missionary activity [al-da'wah al-islamiyah] in the world.

[Al-Manawi] Can you confirm that al-Turabi and his Front have strong and clear connection with a world organization?

[Numayri] They serve a big world organization, which comprises various organizations in many states. The organization in Sudan became prominent, and the reason was the government. Al-Turabi is now viewed in many Islamic countries as the man who carries the banner of Islam. Sudan morally supports these organizations,

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because it does not have money to buy weapons for them. It says it can only provide training to raise morale, defend Islam, and so forth.

[Al-Manawi] What kind of relationship exists between al-Bashir and al-Turabi?

[Numayri] Al-Turabi is the chief who gives the orders, and Al-Bashir is the subordinate who carries them out.

[Al-Manawi] I asked you a few years ago about your chances of returning to power in Sudan. Your answer was that a Latin American president returned to power after 17 years. Do you still expect to return to power in Sudan?

[Numayri] Everything is possible in these circumstances. The prospect has become clearer, because the Sudanese people's view has become clearer after what happened. The Sudanese people have tried a president [Numayri] who worked faithfully, honestly, and decisively. If I return, this will be because of pressure by the people. They alone can restore me to power. As I have said, the situation is deteriorating. We can put our hands together at any time to save Sudan from the claws of these people, who, in my opinion, are unjustly ruling Sudan.

[Al-Manawi] Do you think that the highlighted conflict with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will strengthen his position, reinforce his party, and make him more credible?

[Numayri] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi defeated himself long time ago. All his performances before the people have ended. Do not forget that al-Mahdi and al-Turabi maintain very close relations. They worked and are still working in the same religious institution. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is the uncle of al-Turabi's children. The two of them and their wives are members in the same political organization that secretly operates in the world.

[Al-Manawi] Are you saying that there is coordination between al-Mahdi and al-Turabi?

[Numayri] Yes.

[Al-Manawi] Then, what is the nature of the disagreement between them now?

[Numayri] To promote al-Mahdi and make him appear as the hero.

[Al-Manawi] What is al-Turabi's interest in that?

[Numayri] He wants to change the existing situation and please the Sudanese people. He wants to tell the Sudanese people that he brought a new government in which al-Turabi will serve as the spiritual father and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi as the head of government.

[Al-Manawi] Does this mean that you expect a reconciliation to take place between the al-Ummah Party and the NIF?

[Numayri] This has already happened.

[Al-Manawi] Are you saying this on the basis of your own analysis or on the basis of information you have received?

[Numayri] This is based on analysis and information. One can only make an analysis on the basis of information. I received information that al-Mahdi and al-Turabi and their wives are members in the same organization. Al-Mahdi was subordinate to al-Turabi in clandestine activity, although he was from the al-Ummah Party. When he was a prime minister, he exhumed his uncle's remains after he had been dead for 10 or 15 years. He conducted a big ceremony for him and then reburied him. He did all this to convince the supporters of al-Ummah Party that his uncle, the imam, is finished and that he is his successor. However, a person close to him appeared and told him that he was the imam and not him. This person is Ahmad al-Mahdi.

This is what has been happening. You must analyze what is happening in the domestic and foreign arenas and ask yourself why al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is in the spotlight at this particular time. These are very important matters. Do not forget that al-Mahdi is the pampered son of the West, and he will always be in the spotlight.

[Al-Manawi] What is the Democratic Unionist Party's [DUP] position on all this?

[Numayri] I think that the DUP maintains the same view, but for reasons pertaining to what is called alliances and courtesies. It does not say this openly. The party leaders work outside Sudan and participate in the grouping alliance. In private meetings with some DUP leaders, we find that their analysis is no different from ours. They even have information that we do not have. They know more, because they regard al-Ansar and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi as their primary enemy.

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Bahrain

Islamic Front Statement Urges Student Strike

JN1505172695 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 15 May 95 p 4

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, a facsimile copy of which was made available to AL-MAJD, reports that the students of Madinat 'Isa School have staged a mass protest demonstration against the continuation of the repression and arrest campaigns targeting students and citizens. Demonstrators demanded that democracy be restored and free elections held. The security forces attacked demonstrators and fired tear gas at protesters, beating them, and arresting a number of them.

The statement noted that meanwhile a mass demonstration proceeded toward the al-Ghurayfah graveyard to mark the passage of three days since the killing of Nidal al-Nishabah by policemen. Demonstrators, estimated at 450 men and women, called for the restoration of democracy, the release of political detainees and prisoners, and the trial of officials who were responsible for the killing of unarmed citizens demanding their rights.

The statement went on to say that the students of the Bahrain Institute at al-Sakhir had circulated a pamphlet calling on students to strike against the arrest and dismissal of many university students. Intelligence service members stormed classes and frisked students in a bid to halt the distribution of the statement, which was signed by the students of the University of Bahrain.

The statement warned against the policy of repression, confirming that the security authorities are still staging arbitrary arrest campaigns and exercising various types of torture against the detainees.

The statement added that the security forces had staged large- scale arrest campaigns in the areas of al-Di.az and [Halat] al-Na'im. The detainees included: 'Isa 'Abd-al-Rasul, Rashid Sa'id 'Abd-al-Hamid, and Najib Sa'id 'Abd-al-Hamid. All three are workers.

*Nation Said Enjoying Stability; Crisis Fabricated

95LH0137A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 95 p 6

[Article by Huda al-Husayni]

[FBIS Translated Text] My intellectual conversation partner said to me: In the past some young Arabs used to demonstrate in support of Communism, thinking that it was the ideal system. The Soviet Union then existed behind an iron curtain, releasing attractive slogans about freedom, justice, and progress. The demands were somewhat justified because these young Arabs did not know anything about life in the Soviet Union. Today, however, when some people demonstrate demanding that we copy this or that revolution, they cannot win much support. How can I agree to replace the intellectual and cultural freedom and financial stability that I have with the life of oppression, coercion, and regression the people have experienced under these revolutions, particularly when yesterday they were demonstrating in support of their demand for water, which has been cut off from the cities?

The wife of my conversation partner interjected: Who wants the type of life some people live in certain cities and states? Let them go and live there and not try to export their way of life to Bahrain. We in Bahrain have our customs, culture, and traditions. We reject isolationism and extremism. We worked hard to build Bahrain, and we do not want to give it up. Whoever is unhappy with the life in Bahrain, let him go wherever he wants and may God bless his new life.

In his speech at the opening of the Third Gulf Economic Conference in Manama, Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad said: Revolutions have not necessarily brought progress to the countries in which they took place. The European states have experienced concrete political changes in the wake of the industrial revolution. Some European states experienced revolutions and wars, while others experienced progressive political changes. Al-Mu'ayyad added: No one can claim that the countries that experienced revolutions are more democratic or progressive than countries that experienced gradual changes.

Referring to the Middle East and the peace process, the Bahraini information minister said: "The only permanent peace is the peace of conscience, which comes with the stability and prosperity of all nations."

Before I left for Bahrain, I read many stories in the European and U.S. press about the tense security situation there, about the security forces being deployed on the streets, and about detention camps and prisons. I noticed, however, that the airplane was full of passengers, and I wondered: If the situation was like that, what makes these people want to go there? The flight attendant announced the aircraft's arrival at Bahrain Airport. Since our arrival coincided with the arrival of a British Airways aircraft, the terminal was full of people. I thought that since the country was passing through a period of extreme tension and the airport is Bahrain's main outlet, it would be full of security and army personnel, but the only security people in military uniforms

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were the officers stamping the passports and checking the luggage.

The streets were quiet. While I expected to see roadblocks, everything was normal. Still, the newspaper clippings I carried with me said the opposite. I thought that I should make a night tour of Manama and that perhaps I would find a dark street that would confirm the stories I read. My companion advised me to go to the hotel and rest because there was nothing earthshaking. He said: Tomorrow is another day, and you can then reassure yourself about the situation.

At the hotel, I met a Bahraini friend. He told me that a strike had been called for the next day and that everyone was waiting to see what would happen. We found out the next day that young boys had gone out at 0700 to block the roads in three villages. Their attempt failed when employees went out to their work, shops opened, and life went on normally.

Bahrain was preparing to receive the delegations to two international conferences in Manama. The first was the Regional Rotary Club Conference, which included 1,000 guests. The second was the Gulf Economic Conference, which included 250 guests, led by Margaret Thatcher, former British prime minister; Kurt Waldheim, former Austrian chancellor and former UN secretary general; Les Aspin, former U.S. defense secretary; Claude Chesson, former French foreign minister; Dr Hanan Ashrawi, former spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation in the peace negotiations; and Margaret Tutwiler, former U.S. State Department spokeswoman. Their meeting in Bahrain was an expression of their total confidence in the stable security situation in the country. The two conferences were held in a pleasant atmosphere. No heavy security or state of emergency was evident. Even in the hotel where they were holding the Gulf Economic Conference, at which Saudi Finance Minister Shaykh Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl was one of the main speakers, no state of alert was declared and no Bahraini security or army officers were evident. The pleasant atmosphere in the Meridian Hotel was fully consistent with the satisfactory and optimistic picture reflected by the speech which the Saudi finance minister delivered. Stressing his absolute confidence in the Gulf's economic future, Minister Aba-al-Khayl said that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' major role in the world oil market will continue in the future because these states possess 46 percent of the world's oil reserves. He added: Describing the economic situation of the GCC states as strong is very accurate. He said he wanted to emphasize that the long-term economic prospects are extremely encouraging.

In Bahrain, everyone emphasizes the importance of dialogue. Officials say that dialogue is a natural process in Bahraini political life, which is founded on appreciating society's demands and a desire to fulfill these demands. They affirm that since the beginning of this century, dialogue constituted the basis of development in Bahrain. However, neither Bahrain nor any other civilized state can negotiate under terrorist threats or even talk with someone who threatens the country's integrity. Intellectuals and media people have called for continued cooperation between the leadership and the people, because cooperation, they say, is essential to maintaining Bahrain's security and stability, the two things that have characterized this peaceful state. Bahrain is also known for offering the best climate for economic freedom. In the speech he delivered at the Gulf Economic Conference, Bahraini Finance Minister Ibrahim Abd-al-Karim emphasized the importance of economic freedom, which will be the key to peace and prosperity in the 21st century. He noted that Bahrain will remain a bastion of economic freedom, freedom of international trade, and freedom of investment. "Frankly, we are committed to the freedom of opportunities for all," he said.

In a meeting with the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, he affirmed that dialogue, which is a mark of Bahrain, has never ceased. However, we will not submit to pressure or extortion, he said.

Intellectuals and media people say that Bahrain, like any other state in the world, needs some reforms, but these reforms can take place through an open dialogue, which can testify to progress in the country and counter the malicious campaigns against Bahrain.

A senior Bahraini politician told me: Reforms should be carried out in order not to give those who harbor any designs against us, particularly Iran, any excuse they are looking for to create disturbances in the Gulf. The Bahraini politician added: Iran is planning to impose its hegemony on the region. It talks about revolutions, coups, and oppressed people. The veteran politician drew attention to the deteriorating situation in the Arab world, which many forces are trying to exploit. He said: The people are afraid. They do not know what they want. They thought that salvation would come through international socialism. When the Berlin wall came down, the Soviet Union disintegrated, and the fall of Communism revealed how bad life was under it, the people turned to the extremist Islamic movements, but they suffered a bigger psychological shock when they saw what happened and is happening in Iran, Sudan, Algeria, and Afghanistan. The politician added: The Arab individual is experiencing deep anxiety. After dejecting all the ideologies, he is now interested only in himself and in his personal salvation. He has decided

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to ensure his material well-being, even by crooked means. Certain forces have instigated some Bahrainis to use crooked means to stir up disturbances and riots in Bahrain. When chaos prevails, corruption spreads easily, thus facilitating intervention and domination by foreign instigators.

I asked a government official about the recent events in Bahrain, the country that has been known for the refinement and awareness of its people, and he said: The attempt was made to foil the GCC conference. The government official's secretary came in carrying a news agency report that the Army had been deployed on the streets during the Gulf Economic Conference and that scores of people were killed, wounded, and detained. The first reaction of the official was: Where are we going to put all these detainees? We do not even have a prison. We have a small room that we call a prison.

I asked him about Amnesty International's report on the torture of prisoners. He said: Bahrain's logic and philosophy are as follows: Anyone who violates the law, destroys property, and exposes others to danger must be punished and prevented from continuing his acts of sabotage. A government that respects itself, however, can only treat its people with kindness and humanity. Bahrain's reputation is important and known in the world. Bahrain tries to protect its reputation. Therefore, it does not harm or kill people who violate the law. In the final analysis, they are its people.

What about the punishment? The senior Bahraini official said: The punishment is according to the crime. I don't know how people think that if a person kills a police officer, he must not be punished but if he kills another person, he must be punished. Isn't the police officer a human being? What kind of nonsense is this?

The official continued: Someone contacts us and says that a person is being held as a political prisoner. The caller asks that we give him special treatment. We explain to the caller that a person is punished because he is a murderer and not because of his political beliefs. He is not considered a political prisoner because of his political beliefs. Whoever sets fire to state or private property is punished for his crime. Therefore, people await these trials and think they should be concluded quickly. Some say that we must speed up the trials. If we did that we would be interfering in the judicial system, and this will not happen. All the measures the state has taken were civilized in every sense of the word. In other words, the trials take their course and are held in the presence of lawyers. It is not in anyone's interest for trials to drag on. The senior official added: When disturbances take place, the state is forced to arrest a number of people as part of the security measures. After the initial investigation, the innocent ones are released. The four or five who are detained are brought to trial.

I asked the official whether the death sentence exists in Bahrain. He replied that it exists but has not been used. It might be applied in murder cases, though, he said.

Asked why Iran's name is often mentioned, the official said that those who refer to Iran cite the detainees' confessions. Unfortunately, people also embellish stories against Bahrain.

During a meeting with an informed politician, he told me about "a plan prepared by Iran which is being implemented." He said: The birth rate among the Shiites is high. Shiite religious leaders encourage polygamy to achieve a higher birth rate. Despite his low wages, a driver might have more than 10 children. The politician added: The Shiites are multiplying to take over power and spread the Shiite faith in all the Arab world. This is the plan.

The informed politician added: Foreign forces have played a major role in stirring up problems in Bahrain. No Shiite government will exist or can exist except with a real massacre, and this is impossible. The attempt to stir up disturbances was meant to embarrass the government. Those who stir up trouble are pursuing a policy of scorched earth. Most of the Bahraini people want dialogue and social and economic justice. The Bahraini people are treated equally. There is no discrimination. Bahrain cannot tolerate sectarian extremism. It is a very small and very poor community, and any division in it will lead to a big catastrophe. Therefore, the rational people are trying to calm the situation.

A Bahraini government official refused to discuss these matters. He said: The Bahraini Government only wants the rational people of this country to cooperate for one basic purpose, which is to stop the disturbances, not because the government is unable to stop them but because it does not want anyone to be harmed.

Senior Bahraini officials say that they support security and stability. They want the disturbances to end when possible and ask us to publish something good. The Bahraini officials affirm that the state has the power and there is no doubt that it can impose security by force. They affirm that the state has not used even a reasonable part of its power. People criticize the state for being slow in reacting. Government officials respond to this criticism by saying that they are proud of it. They add: Although we are civilized and treat all the people as our sons, we must not allow anyone to undermine Bahrain's security.

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Asked what is the story about delegations seeking to present certain demands and the government's refusal to negotiate with them because it does not recognize their demands, the senior government official said: This is not true. A group of rational people went to meet with the amir of Bahrain. These people came out of the meeting and issued a statement saying that they went to the meeting to emphasize their desire for the continuation of security and stability in the country.

The government official added: Some people agreed to submit a petition based on sound demands. When the incidents took place, this petition was not submitted in the official sense of the word. We have known traditions of how people approach an official. An individual can go to the amir. We cannot punish people for their intentions. At the same time, we cannot respond to something that has not been presented. All the people of Bahrain think that this is not the time for submitting petitions. We must stop the problems in the country.

Some Bahraini intellectuals have raised the issue of the suspect behavior of the present U.S. Ambassador in Bahrain David Ranson. They said that when word reached the ambassador that some people signed a petition regarding the Constitution, he invited groups of Bahrainis to his house. He talked to them about various issues and then asked them whether the petition was signed by the Shiites, the Sunnis, or both.

The intellectuals wonder about the role the U.S. Embassy is playing. Does it, for example, want to support any uprising movement or hold contacts with the rebels to ensure open channels with them if they gain power or does it want to exert more pressure on the government to make more concessions?

These intellectuals recalled that the embassies in Bahrain hold an annual party at the beginning of every year to collect donations for charitable organizations in Bahrain. They said that the only embassy that boycotted this party this year was the U.S. Embassy. It also prevented its nationals in Bahrain from participating in it. The intellectuals said that this behavior has made the Bahrainis not trust everything the United States says or does. They did not forget to note that Israel is also playing a major role in the disintegration of the Arab world.

I returned to the senior Bahraini official to ask him about the Constitution. He said the Constitution exists. It has not been violated except in the article concerning the National Assembly, which has been replaced by the Consultative Council. He added: The idea is that we cannot proceed from a vacuum. We are a small state in a big area. The shura method is used in the neighboring countries, and the selection of people is more important than anything else. People are chosen for their qualifications. All segments of the people are represented in it. Since Bahrain is a small state, smaller than an electoral constituency in a big European country, it deserves to be viewed differently. Furthermore, every Bahraini can reach the source of decisionmaking without problems.

The Bahraini official added: Europe progressed gradually over the past 100 years. Its policy was based first on raising the standard of living and then developing what was called the middle class. At the beginning, there was sharing in the economic decisionmaking. This was followed a long time later by gradual sharing in the political decisionmaking. In Bahrain, the officials responsible for the economic sector make most of the economic decisions. These are people who share and benefit from such decisions. The official noted that Bahrain is an economic country. By adopting this status, it was possible for Bahrain to be the first in the area to achieve economic progress. The senior Bahraini official said: The National Assembly experiment stumbled for several reasons. We will reconsider this experiment when these reasons no longer exist. He noted that the economic community in Bahrain is developing and changing, and the middle class sector is doubling every year or two. Ambitious housing projects are providing land and houses to every Bahraini family. He emphasized that 90 percent of those who came to meet with the amir expressed fear for their property.

Bahrain has overcome the attempt to undermine its stability. The evil eye is still on it. Therefore, all Bahrainis, regardless of their affiliation and economic situation, are trying to protect Bahrain because their future is in it and because destroying a bright picture of social and economic progress is difficult for them. Bahraini officials are trying to create a healthy atmosphere to resume the dialogue to achieve social and economic reform, like any other country preparing to transition to the 21st century. Bahrain is ready to face all the future challenges without allowing its stability or the unity of its people to be undermined.

Kuwait

Spokesman Links Lifting of Iraq Sanctions to POWs

MM1205083195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 May 95 p 2

[Interview with Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the National Committee for the Affairs of POW's and Missing Persons, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Matar] What are the main points you are focusing on during this trip?

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[Al-Sabah] As the issue of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti POW's is a humanitarian one, the stress here is on the humanitarian aspect of the issue as well as Iraq's failure to cooperate with the Security Council and its refusal to comply with the Security Council resolutions and the Geneva conventions and to honor its international commitments. We still have 625 male and female POW's who are still in Iraqi prisons and we know nothing at all about them. As I said, they include women. It is the duty of the world to defend the resolutions it passed on this matter. [passage omitted]

[Matar] What about non-Kuwaiti POW's? How many are there and how are you dealing with that matter?

[Al-Sabah] We based our findings on the Iraqi documents we discovered proving that there were non-Kuwaiti POW's and on information provided by the families of these people who told us that they saw Iraqis arresting them. We also talked to their governments and ascertained that they were not in their respective countries, and as they are not in Kuwait, it must be assumed that they were taken prisoner by the Iraqis, as eyewitnesses would testify.

[Matar] How many of them are there?

[Al-Sabah] There are 66 non-Kuwaitis. They include Lebanese, Saudis, Egyptians, Iranians, and Filipinos. They also included some Pakistanis and Indians. [passage omitted]

[Matar] You have said that Iraqi cooperation on the question of the POW's would mean solving the problem of the suffering people. Does that mean that resolving the POW's issue is one of the conditions for lifting the sanctions?

[Al-Sabah] I believe that anyone with a conscience is bound to link the question of lifting the sanctions with a humanitarian issue such as that of the POW's. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Are you satisfied with the way the Security Council is handling this issue?

[Al-Sabah] I believe that the way the Council is tackling this issue is the appropriate way of serving humanity and of serving the wronged people of the world. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi people have a right to ask why Saddam rejected the resolution providing for the sale of oil. The starving people should ask and Saddam and his regime should answer. I have heard that when [Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz comes to New York he goes to the theater to see some shows. How can someone whose people are dying go to the theater and to fancy restaurants, pay many dollars, and travel first class? He should save these exorbitant sums to buy medicines for the Iraqi people.

[Matar] Do you believe that Iraq's failure to persuade the Security Council to lift the sanctions means that its efforts have reached a dead end?

[Al-Sabah] I believe that the states of the world — including Iraq's friends, more than its enemies — are now clearly convinced that the Iraqi attitude does not serve Iraq.

[Matar] Do you see any change in the Russian and French positions on this matter?

[Al-Sabah] When I met with the Russians and the French, they assured me of their humanitarian stance on the issue of the Kuwaiti POW's, and they have proven in deeds what they said to me in words. [passage omitted]

Amir, Gabonese President Discuss Relations, Issues

LD1605110295 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon, at 1000 today visited his highness the amir of the country, God safeguard him, at Bayan Palace where official talks took place between them.

Amiri Court Affairs Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah stated that the talks dealt with bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means of bolstering them in various areas. The talks also touched upon a number of vital international issues. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Royal Decree Relieves State Minister of Duties

LD1505115095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1026 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 15 May (SPA) — The following royal decree has been issued:

Decree No. A/80

Date: 3/12/1415 AH [corresponding to 2 May 95]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of Saudi Arabia, after taking cognizance of the statute relevant to the ruling issued on royal decree No. A/90 dated 27/8/1412 AH [corresponding to January 1992];

After taking cognizance of the organic structure of the Council of Ministers as defined by royal decree No. A/13 issued on 3/3/1414 AH [corresponding to August 1994];

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After taking cognizance of the organic structure concerning ministers, deputy ministers, and first class civil servants as defined by royal decree No. M/10 issued on 18/3/1391 AH [corresponding to August 1970];

And after taking cognizance of the two royal decrees Nos. A/221 and A/68 issued respectively on 8/9/1396 AH [February 1976] and 20/7/1407 AH [January 1987];

We decree the following:

1. His Excellency Fayiz Bin Ibrahim Badr, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers and president of the General Ports Authority, is relieved of his duties for health reasons.

2. His highness the deputy prime minister is to enforce this decree.

Yemen

Saudi Envoy Presents Ratified Accord to Minister

JN1505144395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, this morning received 'Ali al-Qutaybi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Sanaa. Al-Qutaybi handed al-Iryani a copy of the memorandum of understanding ratified by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques. The memorandum of understanding was signed between the Governments of Yemen and Saudi Arabia on 27 Ramadan [March] in Mecca.

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UN Envoy Denounces 'Illegal' Israeli Land Grab

JN1605095295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 15 May (INA) — Iraq has said that any encroachment on Jerusalem's identity, legal status, or demographic structure shows contempt for the feelings of the Arab and Islamic nations, defies international law, and violates the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, outlined this Iraqi position in a speech during the UN Security Council session held today, Monday, to discuss the holy Jerusalem issue. Iraq's representative added: Holy Jerusalem has a special religious and historical status for the Arab world and for Muslims and Christians. In addition, it is part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

He said: The facts and developments related to the occupying Israeli authority's land confiscation and the establishment of settlements in order to erase the Palestinian existence in the city have become clear to all. The UN Security Council should assume its responsibilities and issue a resolution emphasizing that the confiscation measures are illegal.

Nizar Hamdun expressed the hope that the UN Security Council will play its role in this regard to avert regional and the world conflicts that will be no less bitter than previous conflicts.

Foreign Minister Confers With UN Officials on 986

Meets Butrus-Ghali, Britain's Hannay

JN1605204795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 15 May (INA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus- Ghali in New York before noon today, Monday.

He explained to Butrus-Ghali why Iraq did not agree to Resolution 986. This resolution includes interference and conditions that have a tendentious political nature designed to violate Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

Al-Sahhaf stressed Iraq's continued cooperation with the United Nations, the Security Council, and the UN Special Commission. He also stressed the continued work to resolve the outstanding problems in order to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which provides for lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf earlier met with Ambassador David Hannay, Britain's permanent UN representative, and briefed him on Iraq's positive relationship with the Security Council.

The foreign minister stressed the need for the Security Council to fulfill its commitments toward Iraq by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 now that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments in accordance with this resolution.

Meets French, Russian Representatives

JN1205210895 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met at the United Nations today with French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, president of the Security Council; and Sergey Lavrov, Russian permanent representative at the United Nations.

Al-Sahhaf explained, during both meetings, the reasons behind Iraq's rejection of Resolution 986, noting that Iraq's legislative, executive, and popular institutions rejected the resolution because it encroaches on Iraq's sovereignty, and territorial and national independence. Al-Sahhaf reaffirmed during both meetings Iraq's readiness to maintain positive cooperation with the Security Committee and the UN Special Commission to fully implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which calls for lifting economic sanctions on Iraq.

Following his meeting with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Russian Ambassador Lavrov told journalists:

The meeting was very good and the talks focused on the future. Al-Sahhaf underscored Iraq's cooperation with the Security Council and the Special Commission, particularly regarding the issues dealing with armament. Al-Sahhaf stressed that the Iraqi Government is ready to close these files as soon as possible so that Ambassador Ekeus will inform the Security Council of this. Then, the discussions will deal with the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Parallel to this, al-Sahhaf renewed the assertion that Iraq will cooperate (?with good intentions) in the issues of the missing people and property, as required by the Security Council resolutions. Therefore, I consider this meeting very positive, and Russia encourages such policy and intentions.

Ambassador Lavrov said that Minister al-Sahhaf explained the reasons behind Iraq's rejection of Resolution 986. He added: When we discussed this resolution before its issuance, it was quite clear that the two main problems remained in the text. They concern the

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quota exported via the pipeline and distribution in northern Iraqi governorates. Those two problems should have been addressed more clearly to reassure Iraq and so that the resolution would not be interpreted as a violation of Iraq's sovereignty. Russia supported that resolution on the basis that the matter was up to the Iraqi Government to accept or reject the resolution. Since that resolution was only an offer to Iraq, so it does not obstruct implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 when the right time comes. Mr. Al-Sahhaf stressed that Iraq will continue work with the Special Commission.

In reply to a question on whether there are new ideas, Ambassador Lavrov said that there can be no new ideas because there is Resolution 687 with its two Paragraphs 22 and 21, which must be implemented. The Iraqis did not try to send any signal that they have shifted attention from Paragraph 22. I do not believe that anybody can shift attention from Paragraph 22 which clearly provides that in case Ambassador Ekeus announces his satisfaction, the UN Security Council should implement that paragraph.

Seeks Support From Other Envoys

JN1305111895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 13 May (INA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has held a new series of meetings with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states.

The foreign minister met with the acting permanent Italian representative, Lorenzo Ferrarin [name as transliterated]; the permanent Czech representative, Karel Kovanda; and Niger's permanent representative, Ibrahim Gambari [name as transliterated].

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf stressed to these states' ambassadors that Iraq has implemented its obligations in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, and called on the UN Security Council member states to support the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 on lifting the economic blockade.

He pointed out that Resolution 986 was issued after certain tendentious parties realized that the time was ripe to implement Paragraph 22, and after the world was unanimous on Iraq's just cause.

These ambassadors expressed their states' support for Iraq's sovereignty over all its territory, and their readiness to begin the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. They also expressed their states' appreciation for Iraq's positive dealing with the UN Security Council and the UN Special Commission.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the UNESCO, and Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, took part in these meetings.

Paper: Peace Process Heading in 'Wrong Direction'

JN1505113795 Baghdad INA in English 0840 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 15, INA — The Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH daily said that the last four-year [period] has proved that the steps taken vis-a-vis the settlement process with the Zionist entity, usurper of Palestine, were in the wrong direction.

The paper, organ of the government, said in an article issued here on Monday despite all what had been said about "positive outcome" of Madrid, Oslo and Cairo, the actual current situation is still covered with mystery and confusion and that the hands that extended with peace to the Zionists have gained nothing so far.

The daily referred to the arrogant and oppressive policy exercised by the Zionist entity, saying that this entity is becoming more rude and tyrant, trying to draw the world attention to minor issues and go deep day after another towards terrorism that it has been pursuing since its first terrorist gangs entered the occupied Palestine, it added.

Arab steadfastness only is capable of convincing the world, the UN in particular of the Arab rights and the hostility of the Zionists, referring in this respect to Iraqi people steadfastness in the face of the most aggressive war led by the US.

The paper concluded by saying that "if Iraq has been able to stand up alone, then the whole Arab nation with all the potentials it owns if mobilized, would certainly be in position to defeat its enemies".

Opposition Radio on 'Rumors' of Cabinet Reshuffle

NC1505145895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There are rumors in Baghdad that the ruling regime may carry out a cabinet reshuffle in which Sa'dun Hammadi may assume a senior post.

Informed political sources have noted that Saddam Husayn's regime is removing some officials in an attempt to blame them for the regime's failure to handle the issue of the international sanctions being imposed by the United Nations. The same sources have noticed the absence of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz from official meetings, which indicates that the UN file has been taken away from him and given to Foreign

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Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, who attended the Security Council's latest periodical review of the sanctions. During the review it was agreed to maintain the sanctions.

Opposition Radio: Tariq 'Aziz Suspends Political Activity

NC1205190095 (Clandestine) Iraqi Army Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 95

[From the "News and Views" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Information leaked by the circles of the criminal ruling regime indicates that Tariq 'Aziz has suspended his political activity after expressing resentment over Saddam's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 986.

'Aziz publicly complained that he is a mere carrier of the diplomatic pouch and that his discussions and talks at the United Nations and all his agreements with the representatives of some states which contributed to the resolution in favor of the Iraqi people — states such as Oman, Russia, and France — have been in vain because of Saddam Husayn's rejection of Resolution 986.

Saddam's decision rejecting Resolution 986 was issued when Tariq 'Aziz was in Amman on his return journey from New York. 'Aziz said he believes the resolution has some positive aspects and that we must treat it as such.

This is not strange or new from Saddam, because all ministers, officials, military commanders, and all the people know well Saddam's disregard for any other view even if it is a correct one. If Tariq 'Aziz has been surprised by this stance of Saddam, other officials and commanders were also surprised when Saddam entered Kuwait. Then Chief of Staff Nizar al-Qadraji heard the news from the radio and only by coincidence.

Regime Offer To Reopen Beirut Embassy Turned Down

NC1505164195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese Government has once again turned down the Saddam Husayn government's offer to reopen its embassy in Beirut at the consular level. Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have stated that this is the second time that the Lebanese Government has refused the Iraqi Government's request, which was conveyed by Nabil Najm al-Tikriti, Iraq's Arab League delegate.

The Lebanese Government broke diplomatic relations with Saddam Husayn's regime after several diplomatic personnel working at the regime's embassy were implicated in the assassination of Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl in Beirut more than a year ago.

Islamic 'Resistance' Reportedly Kills Regime Official

NC1405155995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Having carefully monitored the moves and activities of criminal Nassar al-Sa'dun, a retired brigadier general residing in the al-Zaytunah quarter of al-Nasiriyah in southern Iraq, a group from the Islamic Resistance carried out a heroic operation against him in April. The group killed him as a lesson to the mercenaries and criminals of tyrant Saddam's regime.

Our sources add that the regime's party and repressive agencies sealed off the area after the assassination to search for the perpetrators, who succeeded in withdrawing safely to their bases.

It is worth noting that the aforementioned criminal participated effectively in quelling the people's uprising of March and April 1991. He committed heinous crimes and executed a number of the sons of the revolutionary city of al-Nasiriyah.

Baghdad Firearms Trade Said 'Flourishing'

NC1205171395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] People arriving from Baghdad have stated that the firearms trade is flourishing in many Iraqi cities and that the measures Saddam's authority have taken to curb this phenomenon have all failed.

In statements published in Ankara, people arriving from Iraq said that the firearms trade has spread to all Iraqi cities, particularly Baghdad. According to these people, any citizen can obtain weapons through a normal deal with arms dealers. These people added that some firearms suppliers promise the buyer an arms license in return for bribes that were agreed to previously with the regime's apparatuses.

In addition to the firearms trade [words indistinct] civilian affairs and [words indistinct] documents.

U.S., UK Blamed for Increasing Mortality Rates

JN1505154395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA) — A source at the Ministry of Health has accused the United States and Britain of applying great pressure on the UN Sanctions Committee to prevent Iraq from obtaining

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its requirements of medicines, medical appliances, and baby milk.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, the source added that the U.S. pressure has prevented several international pharmaceutical companies from fulfilling their commitments with regard to the exports to Iraq of medicines and medical appliances, the payment of which they received before 2 August 1990. This, the source added, reflects the inhumane course pursued by these two states, as well as the enmity they harbor toward the people of Iraq.

The source went on to say: The pursuit of this anti-Iraqi policy by the United States and Britain to inflict the greatest possible harm on the Iraqi people reflects the tendentious purposes of these two countries, as manifested in their determination to maintain the unfair sanctions clamped on the people of Iraq. It is to be recalled that the sanctions have immeasurably increased mortality rates among children and mothers, not to mention the large increases registered in the communicable diseases in the country.

The source explained that the pressure the United States and Britain have brought to bear to prevent Iraq from obtaining the necessary medical requirements needed in surgery enshrined in contracts signed with the aforesaid companies, such as anesthetics, stitches, and blood bags, have caused a sharp decrease in routine and emergency surgeries; an increase in fatalities; and an aggravation of illnesses.

The source noted the shortages in parts for X-ray equipment and X-ray films, saying that this has caused huge problems that have aggravated the suffering of the sick who need to have their illnesses properly diagnosed

The source urged the international community and humanitarian organizations to work seriously and vigorously to lift the unfair sanctions and end the untold suffering of 20 million Iraqis.

***Najaf Governor Discusses People's Grievances**

95LH0133A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 22 Feb 95 p 19

[Interview with Najaf Governor Ali Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun by Muhsin Jawad in Najaf; date not given — first two paragraphs are ALIF BA' introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Sunday was Najaf's day. President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, visited Najaf on 19 February 1982. Since that visit, this day has become the governorate's day, although the president leader has visited Najaf several times after. He has devoted special attention and care to Najaf, especially to the burial shrine of his grandfather Imam Ali Bin-Abi Talib, may God's peace be upon him.

Thirteen years have passed since that auspicious visit. We have met with the new Najaf governor, Ali Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun, and addressed 13 questions to him about Najaf, the conditions in it, the people's problems, and the measures taken by the administration to implement the state's instructions to care for Najaf and its people.

[Jawad] How has the president leader's visit to the city of Najaf affected the lives of its people?

[Al-Sa'dun] The president leader's visit to the people of Najaf has been specially important. It has reinforced the spiritual ties between the leader and the people. His excellency has given instructions to rebuild and develop the burial place of his grandfather and develop the surrounding area to provide the best services to visitors.

[Jawad] You have worked in other governorates and dealt with their peoples. Do you find any difficulty dealing with the people of Najaf?

[Al-Sa'dun] The people of Najaf are the people of Iraq, and all are from the same noble source. They are the sons of Imam Ali, may God's peace be upon him. and a source of pride. They are the builders of Iraq's glory. Are they not the people about whom the great leader Saddam Husayn once said "their loyalty is kneaded with blood?" This alone is sufficient to describe the people of Najaf.

[Jawad] Some people say that officials, who assume the post of Najaf governor, pay more attention to the holy shrines than to the people's economic problems?

[Al-Sa'dun] It is known that nations give top consideration to their shrines, as they reflect their values. Therefore, we too devote attention to our important, holy shrines. However, we pay the same attention to the problems of the people and try to provide them with the best services.

[Jawad] The citizens complain about problems in services. Is there a new plan to improve services?

[Al-Sa'dun] Yes. We have devised a comprehensive plan of action, and it will be implemented this year. It includes covering the swamps in the al-'Urubah, al-Qadisiyah, al-Jam'iyah, and al-Zahra' neighborhoods and opening streets to extend municipal services to the al-Jami'ah, al-Milad, and al-Nasr neighborhoods. The plan also includes repairing and resurfacing the streets of the old city and the main street of the al-Zahra' neighborhood. It provides for maintaining the city's drainage and sewerage systems, maintaining the pumping stations

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in the old city and other neighborhoods, and building 4,000 square meters of pavements.

Regarding the scarcity of drinking water and the delay in completing the unified water project, it has been decided to draw up a comprehensive plan to repair and maintain all the water systems and networks. The plan includes projects in other areas and districts in the governorate.

Regarding rural roads, a plan has been prepared to repair rural roads to facilitate the marketing of agricultural produce. Mechanical and technical means have been mobilized for this purpose. Work will be carried out throughout the year and will involve various areas and districts.

[Jawad] The people are complaining about the rise in the cost of washing and burying the dead. What measures have been taken in this regard?

[Al-Sa'dun] This situation has been dealt with by instructing the workers in this field. The municipal council will be invited to draw up a plan to set the fees for such services and not to leave room for extortion. A philanthropist has donated money for a washhouse. A piece of land has been allocated, and the building is nearing completion.

[Jawad] In the al-Mishkhab district, people say that shops and new pharmacies sell medicines at commercial prices?

[Al-Sa'dun] Although we have not received a complaint in this regard, we have invited medical specialists and pharmacists in the governorate and told them of their responsibility to serve the citizens in these circumstances through which our steadfast country is passing. We have also instructed the pertinent authorities to supervise and follow up such cases. Anyone found cheating will be dealt with firmly.

[Jawad] It is known that many poor people live on alms collected at the holy shrines. What is the governorate's role in supporting these people in this difficult time?

[Al-Sa'dun] We have devoted ourselves to serve this segment of society. It is the state's practice to care for these people. We are doing the same. We will spare no effort in granting material and financial assistance to needy people. The citizens thank the state and regard it as the father. When they need help, they come to us. The president has been very generous. We are guided by him.

[Jawad] Some farmers violate the law by selling their produce outside the normal framework. How do you deal with this?

[Al-Sa'dun] This is not a general practice. Some people have violated the law. They have been pursued and their produce confiscated. The number is very small. Marketing this year was very good, contrary to previous years.

[Jawad] Vegetable production has dropped in recent years. It is said that the agricultural departments are to blame?

[Al-Sa'dun] It is known that the Najaf governorate specializes in the cultivation of grain. The cultivation of vegetables is an addition in the present circumstance. There is competition to produce more than one crop at the same time. The agricultural departments are not to blame. The agricultural materials distributed to farmers do not meet all the needs, particularly with regard to the nylon material for green houses.

[Jawad] People complain about the bad quality of flour and the presence of sand and other impurities?

[Al-Sa'dun] Yes, and this is not a common situation. We pursued this matter, and the quantity of flour that contained impurities has been withdrawn from the agent, and those who were negligent in their job have been punished.

[Jawad] People complain about the delay in receiving their food rations?

[Al-Sa'dun] We are continuously following up the distribution of food rations through meetings in the Trade Ministry in the governorate. Sometimes confusion occurs in the distribution between one area and another. I ask the citizens to inform the governorate about it.

[Jawad] We have learned that the sports city will be moved to the Bahr al-Najaf area, but nothing has been accomplished yet. What are the reasons?

[Al-Sa'dun] This is correct. We have indeed decided to move the sports city to the Bahr al-Najaf area. Part of the infrastructure has been completed. However, work has stopped because no allocations for the project have been received since 1994.

[Jawad] What about the distribution of housing units to the people?

[Al-Sa'dun] On the basis of new instructions by the Council of Ministers and the Interior Ministry, distribution committees have been formed in the governorates to distribute housing units to the citizens, according to regulations. These units will be distributed to the citizens soon.

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Knesset Summer Session Opens in Jerusalem

Rabin Speaks

TA1505153095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1328 GMT 15 May 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the opening of the Knesset's summer session in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset. As a member of the generation that founded the State of Israel, I am sensitive to the date of 15 May, because 47 years ago yesterday, according to the Gregorian calendar, David Ben-Gurion, as the elected leader of the World Zionist Movement, the Jewish Agency, and the Jewish community in Eretz Yisra'el, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel at the Tel Aviv Museum. The dream of generations was fulfilled. But something that is obvious today was not so obvious then. There are not many today who know how the leaders, parties, and Jewish community circles were riddled with fears and concern about the birth pangs of the historic decision on the establishment of the State of Israel. The apprehension was great. Only a majority of two — six to four — in the Provisional State Council enabled David Ben-Gurion to face a nation fighting for its life and utter the festive words, which we have been hearing constantly since then, and I quote: We hereby proclaim the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Yisra'el, which is the State of Israel. The applause with which the proclamation of the establishment of the state was received silenced the roars of war for only a short time. Before then and definitely on that day and night, the just-established State of Israel was engrossed in war. The war of independence was the longest and most painful war. Since then, it has been one long war under various names, which we believe will end in true peace, which we are seeking these days.

Members of the Knesset, in my speech in this house upon presenting the current government on 13 July, 1992, I said, among other things, and I quote: This government, like all its predecessors, believes there are no differences of opinion in this house over Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. Unified and indivisible Jerusalem was and will remain forever the capital of the people of Israel under Israeli sovereignty, the focus of each Jew's longings and dreams. The government is firm in its position that Jerusalem is not a subject for bargaining. Also, in the years to come, there will be expanded construction in Greater Jerusalem. Every Jew, religious and nonreligious, swears: If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither. This oath unites us all, and definitely me, as someone born in this city. I also said in that speech: The government will maintain freedom of worship for all the other religions in Jerusalem, it will make certain that free access to the holy places of all the faiths and religions is upheld, and it will permit a normal and comfortable life for those who pass through its gates and those who live here, end of quote.

I will add: We, as sovereign Israel, especially in Jerusalem, are attentive and sensitive to tolerance and consideration, and aspire to equality for all citizens of united Jerusalem irrespective of religion, nationality, etc.

Over the past three years, we have fulfilled our many pledges, including Jerusalem, to the Israeli public. I can say that with great pride today, three years later, and I find no reason to change, amend, or add even one comma to the speech I made on presenting this government. The government today continues to stand behind what I said, and it has no intention of pulling back in any way.

Members of the Knesset: All the governments of Israel since the conclusion of the Six-Day War have built up united Jerusalem. The holy scriptures say that Jerusalem is surrounded by hills, but we no longer see the barren hills that surrounded Jerusalem for generations. Neighborhoods have been established on the Jerusalem hills, roads have been built, and many thousands have come to live here. Facts have been created in Jerusalem because we have always regarded Jerusalem as the heart of the Jewish people, as the capital of the State of Israel, and we will also do so in the future.

Since the conclusion of the Six-Day War, a delicate fabric of life has been established in Jerusalem. Jews, Muslims, and Christians pray to their gods and live alongside each other, in most cases with tolerance, while honoring each others' rights. Much of that special atmosphere we owe to Teddy Kollek, the mayor, who for many years, day and night, was concerned with the construction and expansion of the city while strictly upholding this delicate fabric of life.

The building of Jerusalem, like all cities, sometimes requires expropriation of land for public purposes: roads, schools, kindergartens, and communal construction. That has always been the case in Israel. Land is being confiscated from Jews and Arabs according to the needs and the circumstances. Planners and builders, mayors and public figures, and contractors are concerned with the welfare of all the city's inhabitants. All Israeli Governments up to now have acted on that issue in the spirit of the government's decisions that the expropriation is being done only for public needs and only when there is no other choice.

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Members of the Knesset: Within the framework of the construction of Jerusalem, it was recently decided to expropriate 535 dunams for building purposes. This is a small piece of land located in two areas. In the Ramot neighborhood some 335 dunams was expropriated. Some 30 percent belongs to Jews, the ownership of 15 percent is unclear, and the remainder belongs to Arabs. The other location is in the Har Gilo area. Here 200 dunams is involved, part of which is near Qiryat Yovel bordering on the Green Line. The ownership of 112 dunams is unknown: 78 dunams is unregistered, while 24 dunams belong to Jews and 10 dunams to Arabs.

There are plans to construct police installations in this area to replace those installations that will be vacated in the center of town. Four hundred housing units for the Arab residents of Jerusalem will also be built. I should also point out that the Construction and Housing Ministry's Jerusalem District administration transferred a list of master plans in January 1995 which are designed to provide housing solutions for the Arab population of East Jerusalem.

At the cabinet session yesterday, the government made the following decision: First, the government notes the prime minister's announcement regarding the declared intention to expropriate 535 dunams in Jerusalem. Second, the government has no intention of carrying out additional land expropriations for housing purposes in Jerusalem. Third, the government has asked the finance, interior, housing and construction, and environment ministers to work with the Jerusalem Municipality to expedite the issuance of construction permits for Arab residents. I will sum up the picture by stating briefly: much ado about nothing!

Members of the Knesset: From its first day in office, this government promised to make every effort, explore every path, and do everything necessary for the sake of peace. Today, at the opening of the summer session, the government can present a series of accomplishments which include the first serious attempt of an Israeli government to resolve the Palestinian- Israeli conflict, which is the most complex part of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The PLO and Israel agreed on mutual recognition. We signed a Declaration of Principles [DOP]. We signed the Cairo agreement and implemented it in Gaza and Jericho first. In another three days, we will mark the first anniversary of this agreement, without which the reaching of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel would have been impossible.

With less than two years left, this government looks toward a future in which the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved. This process started with the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, and I will not elaborate on its price. You know it. Everyone is well aware of this price which definitely serves as a precedent for other parties on the Arab side and in the negotiations. We look toward to the future. We see the developments that have taken place in the Middle East. Egypt, which was our enemy and initiated all the wars between the Arab armies and us, has been at peace with us for over 16 years. Jordan has also signed a peace treaty with us. We are in the midst of the process of resolving the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Indeed, this house is today the scene of a clash between two world views. We believe that the generations of Jews who have dreamed and prayed of their return to Zion, ever since the destruction of the Second Temple, did not envision the establishment of a binational state. The dreams of generations of Jews, in light of current realities, is to establish a Jewish state with a unified Jerusalem as its capital. Not a binational state, but rather a Palestinian entity alongside Israel. While we will not withdraw to the 1967 borders, we do seek peace with a Palestinian entity in the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip — not according to the lines that existed prior to the 1967 war. We are at the beginning of a difficult process which is accompanied by past deposits of enmity, hatred, and bloodshed; however, Israel must make peace in the Middle East with those who were formerly its enemies. Without readiness to accept the fact that peace is made with enemies there is no ... [pauses] Just as we made peace with Egypt, which was our most bitter foe in all the wars, we will now make peace with our former enemies, and they will become our partners in advancing peace throughout the Middle East. Today, this government is committed to the continued implementation of the DOP. We have set 1 July as a target date for reaching an agreement on the second stage in the implementation of the DOP.

In the government's view today, the major, but not sole obstacle to the realization of progress toward peace between the Palestinians and Israel, is primarily the terrorism perpetrated by the radical Islamic organizations: Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and of course the Rejectionist Front to a certain extent.

We have witnessed the fact that since the end of 1993, the Fatah groups under the Palestinian Authority [PA] headed by 'Arafat have not taken part in any murderous terrorist attacks against Israelis. Only the enemies of peace have made terrorism their principal means of achieving their political goal: the murder of Israelis and the murder of peace. Of course, anyone can take their cue from the past, but living in the past will not lead to any solutions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We demand that the PA fulfill its commitment as stipulated by the DOP and the Cairo agreement. Over the past

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few weeks, we have seen the PA take clear-cut steps against the radical Islamic terrorist elements, against the Islamic Jihad, and against Hamas. Let me add that the leaders of several of these organizations in the Gaza Strip were prepared to agree to halt terrorist activities — not only inside Gaza and Jericho but also from the autonomous areas against outside targets; however, this did not come to pass as a result of pressure from Iran. Our major enemy today is Iran, with its doctrine of Khomeynism which is spreading across the Arab and Islamic world and its attempts to stockpile conventional and nonconventional weapons — not the countries that signed peace treaties with us, not the PLO, the PA, and neither Syria nor Lebanon. Those who are blind to future threats will not prepare themselves or search for solutions with those who are ready to move toward peace with us. I have no doubt that we must demand that the PA fulfill all its commitments while at the same time meeting our own obligations. We truly intend to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Peace with Jordan is developing in a positive fashion. Today, tens of thousands of Israelis visit Jordan. Thousands of Jordanians are visiting Israel. We have signed agreements. A whole network of cooperation is developing which I believe will serve as an ideal example of peace between an Arab state and its people and the State of Israel and its people.

We are proud of this achievement which would have been impossible to realize without first reaching an agreement with the Palestinians.

The negotiations with Syria have run into difficulties. The demands posed by Syria signify its intention to exact a higher price from Israel in exchange for peace than the other two countries with which we have already signed peace treaties. We intend to pursue the negotiations and preclude any situation in which Israel, by way of legislation or through some other formal procedure, casts itself as the party that caused the end of the negotiations. At the same time, we shall adamantly uphold our position, which is to attain peace with Syria, while realizing that this necessitates a compromise, which may include a territorial compromise and a readiness in principle to effect a certain withdrawal for the sake of peace. [heckling] Sir, I propose that the Likud refrain from presenting any examples as to the price of peace. We have already seen your example. You tend to look back at the past. Why not learn from the example of your own past?

We are also engaged in an ongoing war against Hizballah terrorism from Lebanon. In this, we are joined by the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and part of the Lebanese community in south Lebanon. To our great regret, it now transpires that the Lebanon war did not bring about an end to terrorism from Lebanon. Today, such terrorism is carried out primarily by a radical Islamic element which is part of the Khomeynist wave in the Arab and Islamic world: Hizballah. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA soldiers are engaged in a continual battle which we will continue to pursue. I believe that we shall be successful in preventing attacks against Israel's northern settlements. All the attempts by terrorist squads to infiltrate the security zone in order to attack Israeli settlements have been foiled. We shall continue to wage a ruthless war against Hizballah terrorism. Today, there is no doubt that the wave of Islamic extremism led by Iran — Khomeynism without Khomeyni; Hamas and Islamic Jihad among the Palestinians; Hizballah in Lebanon; the enemies of the moderate Arab regimes in Egypt, Algeria, and Jordan — constitute the real threat to stability, security, and peace in the Middle East. This government will pursue the path set by the Madrid Conference — after the previous government did absolutely nothing — in order to make progress toward implementing the aspirations of all the conference's participants. We will proceed. We do not feel pressured by dates. We do not want to waste any time in promoting peace, but not at any price or condition.

Let me conclude my speech from this podium by expressing my appreciation for the tens of thousands of IDF soldiers, border policemen, the Israel Police, and the security forces whose blessed activities have permitted the people of Israel to have a happy and safe Pesah, Remembrance Day for IDF fallen, and Independence Day, in which the Israeli people were able to celebrate safely and without incident, while fully identifying with the significance of these occasions. The IDF soldiers, border policemen, Israel Police, and security personnel are worthy of the nation's gratitude, because their efforts have permitted us to celebrate these holidays in happiness and security. I would like to ask the Knesset to take note of my speech.

Netanyahu Speaks

TA1605041495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 May 95

[Speech by Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu at the opening of the Knesset's summer session in Jerusalem — live, with numerous interruptions by heckling from the floor]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset Members [MK's]: On this day of the opening of the Knesset's summer session, we have a day with a glaring sun which disperses the fog and exposes reality as it is. With the help of this glaring light, despite the cover-up attempts, the Israeli public in recent days could see the

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true positions of Labor and this left-wing government. The prime minister is accustomed to saying and has just now said so as well, that Jerusalem will remain unified under Israel's sovereignty forever. Let me quote your precise words: Unified and indivisible Jerusalem was and will remain forever the capital of the people of Israel under Israeli sovereignty. Still, Mr. Prime Minister, you can quote this, and the cabinet ministers or members repeat this day in and day out, as if it were a magical word, a sort of Indian mantra, a word that you repeat so as to calm down, not yourselves in this case, but rather the Israeli public. But we are asking what is behind these words.

Yesterday and today you said that Jerusalem is not a subject for argument; it is only a subject for political negotiations which you, unlike all governments preceding you, agreed to. And lo and behold, yesterday we heard that the Israeli Government had made a commitment vis-a-vis an international forum that there would be no more land expropriations in Jerusalem. Mr. Prime Minister: There is no country world-wide that would give such a commitment. Nobody is happy about land expropriation, but the right, in principle, to expropriate land when necessary is an integral part of sovereignty, while yesterday, Yitzhaq Rabin clearly stated that as long as Labor is in power there will be no more land expropriations — in other words, Jerusalem will no longer be expanded. This means that the prime minister yesterday told the Israeli people as follows in fact: If you want Jewish Jerusalem to continue to be expanded and built, if you want it to prosper, you have to replace the current government with a national, Likud-led government, since you will not build residential units, as you said. What do residential units mean? This means houses in which Jews, in this case, need to live. If you do not build, they will not live, and if they do not live, there will be no Jews, there will be a freeze rather than an expansion. In other words, Mr. Speaker, the prime minister informed us that he is freezing the construction and expansion of Jerusalem.

Knesset members: A Likud-led government will do everything necessary to guarantee Israel's absolute sovereignty in Jerusalem. It will build, it will settle, it will expand, and if necessary, it will also expropriate lands, and Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Mr. Prime Minister, will indeed remain unified under Israel's sovereignty. Unlike you, though, when we say this we mean every word; this is not a slogan. What has come over you? You once were a government or rather a movement of deeds rather than declarations. You have now turned into a movement of declarations. You come up with slogans and say empty words that have no relation to reality.

I must say that this is not the first time that Meretz has dictated the government's path. A few months ago, this government capitulated in with regard to Hazayit Hill in Efrat in the 'Etzyon Bloc. Under Arab pressure it decided to freeze construction there. Then you told us that Efrat is not Greater Jerusalem, and now it transpires that Jerusalem itself is not Greater Jerusalem anymore either. With you, nothing is Jerusalem. There is a very interesting division of labor that I discovered here between Meretz and the prime minister: Meretz accords the prime minister the honor, and the prime minister allows Meretz to have practical control of the government. Namely, 500 dunams are expropriated in the name of honor, to demonstrate that there is no surrender, but this is followed by giving up, by freezing another 15,000 dunams, in order to guarantee the (?absence) of momentum in building in Jerusalem.

As for you Meretz MK's, hats off to you! Look, you received only 10 percent of the votes in the elections, but you control this government today, and this is a considerable achievement. I heard Minister Sarid.... [pauses due to heckling] Please allow me: MK Zucker asked for a clarification, so let me clarify. The truth is that this thing troubled me; I simply could not understand it. After all, Minister Sarid said at the time: Mr. Rabin, you will lead, but we will determine the way. I wondered then: How can that be? What does it mean? After all, only one determines the way, and indeed, only one does! I thought to myself: Where can I find a parallel to this? Is this a kind of boss-driver relationship? Is it like the boss who sits in the back and the driver who sits in front and is told where to go, the driver who drives but with somebody else guiding him? Let me tell you indeed: Your achievement is enormous! Today's government is a Meretz government; the way is Meretz'. The way is not only Meretz'.... [pauses] MK Zucker, let me be accurate in what I say. I believe that you want accuracy here. Well then, before the elections you promised us a Rabin-led Labor, and we got a Rabin-led Labor, a Peres-led Rabin, a Meretz-led Peres, a Sarid-led Meretz, an al-Tibi-led Sarid, an 'Arafat-led al-Tibi, and a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]-led 'Arafat. This is what we got. If you want accuracy, this is accuracy, this is total accuracy for you!

Mr. Speaker: A clear sign of sovereignty is control of land, of which the government divests itself and us. There is, however, also another sign of sovereignty: Sovereignty is a state with a capital. What is a capital? It is the city where all the governments in the world represented in that country deploy their embassies. We have been waiting 47 years, and the moment has finally come when the United States announces that it will relocate its embassy to Jerusalem.

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The prime minister's first reaction during his visit to the United States when he heard about the proposed bill in the Senate to force the U.S. Government to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem was to shriek or at least charge that it is the Likud's fault. I wish that were so. I accept the accusation with glee, and my colleagues are definitely pleased to be partners to it. But, back to the point. Instead of leading those who support and call for the immediate relocation of the embassy, what the government is doing after having recovered somewhat, is to dispatch groups of U.S. Jews to tell the senators and congressmen that it is ill-timed.

Mr. Rabin, I ask you: When will the time be appropriate? When they build the Palestinian state that you are preparing for them? When they hand out and distribute Jerusalem as you are permitting them to do? When the United States does not have this opportunity? When will it be the appropriate time, if not now? Now is the right time. I will tell you something, Mr. Rabin: For you, the time will never be ripe, because for 'Arafat the time is never ripe, and you and your government simply do 'Arafat's bidding. 'Arafat shouts, so we have to pullback. We cannot pull back outright so we do so via U.S Jewry. Mr. Rabin can prove right now that what I say is untrue. All he has to do is return to this podium and say clearly to the U.S. Congress, U.S. senators, the U.S Administration, the U.S. public: I, Yitzhaq Rabin, urge you to pass the legislation to relocate the embassy. We support it, we want it, and we demand that you transfer it immediately. Let us hear you say that. If you do I will recant.

Meretz is up in arms. Now it knows the simple truth. The government has made a foolhardy agreement with the PLO, which has been smashed to smithereens. An enormous wave of terrorism is springing forth from Gaza, and this government says: We will continue going forward, as though nothing has happened. They say that not only will we continue progressing, but we will give them rifles, helicopters, explosives, and more Gazas, then it might work out. It is like a skit by a famous comedy group about somebody charging straight into a truck. You are dragging the entire country behind you. I want to tell you something, Mr. Prime Minister: Not only do you not know how to negotiate, you are incapable of standing firm over the minimum in bilateral negotiations when there is the slightest threat, when there is the smallest pressure, for example at the United Nations. I have been at the United Nations many times. When there was tiny, insignificant international pressure when you expelled Hamas, you immediately brought them back. You have now expropriated land. Minute pressure was applied on you. Forgive me for saying, but in UN terms, it was a tiny drop of pressure, not even an organized denunciation by the Security Council or a presidential announcement by the Security Council. Your ambassador there did not stand up to drive away the pressure, while you caved in.

By capitulating, you know where that agreement is leading. [heckling] The coalition is behaving like an opposition, and we will make sure that that will not be wasted. I promise you that the public sees what you see, that there is nothing left from the agreement, and that what is left is your seeking favor with 'Arafat and seeking favor with Hamas so that it will give us several months of quiet. That is what you are trying to achieve, not the elimination of terrorism, not the disarming of Hamas, not the abolition of terrorist nerve centers. This is simply a tactical suspension in order to take over more territories. It is not I who says that, it is Hamas. This morning, Shaykh Nafis 'Azzam, one of the leaders of the Islamic Jihad, the sister movement, said that the Islamic Jihad would continue to perpetrate terrorist attacks even after the PLO is handed the entire West Bank. He has no problem with the PLO's getting all of the West Bank. After all, that is their shared goal. But all they want to accomplish, together with you.... [pauses] The prime minister is quite right. I always said and continue to assert today that there are elements inside Hamas and the Islamic Jihad who say: Why be stupid? Let us help the PLO receive control of the territory, establish a terrorist kingdom tenfold in size, and then use it as a base for much larger terrorist attacks against every location in Israel. You are going along with this while believing that the public will cheer you on and feel grateful for three days or three months of quiet. Let me tell you: The public does not want three days of quiet or three months of calm. It wants a government that will fight against terrorism and not count on 'Arafat to do that. What total absurdity, to make an agreement with 'Arafat and entrust him with quelling terrorism [heckling].

Mr. Speaker: I must admit to one inaccurate remark. I said that this government does not insist on anything. One may well note that I just heard the prime minister talk about a territorial compromise in his speech with regard to Syria. He said that we shall not make peace in exchange for any price or under any condition. I wondered about his statements until I remembered what the foreign minister had told the cabinet yesterday. The foreign minister recalled that he has explained at length to Mubarak the difference between the international border and the borders of 4 June 1967. In other words, one must bear in mind that we are talking about several dozen on the shores of Lake Tiberias. The government is basically saying that they have already agreed to withdraw from the Golan Heights but will fight al-

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Asad to the very last meter up to the shores of Lake Tiberias. You will show al-Asad who he is up against. You are showing some real muscle. You will fight like veritable lions over those ten meters. You have given up the Golan Heights but are now battling over our fishing rights on Lake Tiberias. This is what is left, and you know it. You are fighting over that because you have already given up everything else. If you want to claim that this assertion is also baseless, then I invite you back up on the podium to repeat the remarks you made during your election campaign, which were quoted earlier by Knesset Member Landau: Whoever descends from the Golan Heights will be abandoning Israel's security. Please, come back up here. A simple invitation.

Mr. Speaker: I must say something to the prime minister. You have a single response to everything: Begin, Begin, Begin. Would Begin have made such an agreement with the PLO? Would Begin have withdrawn the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and brought in the terrorists' army? Would Begin have given up the Golan? It was Begin who got the Golan Law passed. Would Begin have dismantled our strongholds in Jerusalem? Begin passed the Jerusalem Law. To whom are you lying?

Mr. Prime Minister: The answer is simple. You are not making peace at any cost or under any terms, you are making it only at the cost and under terms set by the other side. There are more demands we can think of, but you give in to all the Arab demands.

Mr. Prime Minister: You recalled in your remarks something apt. You said that on the eve of the establishment of the state there were those who had doubts. That is true, but you forgot to say something else. In what we call the national camp, there were no hesitations or doubts. There was a clear-cut demand to set up the state. All doubts and hesitations were on the left. But there is one difference: Then the doubters, the mistaken, and the lost were in the minority, while now they constitute the majority. Today, you lead this government to capitulation and collapse because the track you are taking is one of capitulation, surrender, and collapse.

Mr. Prime Minister: I wish to tell you that most of the people understand exactly what I have just said. Most of the people want a united Jerusalem. Most of the people want the Golan Heights. Most of the people do not want additional havens for terrorism. Most of the people want peace through strength and not through weakness, which only leads to pipe dreams. Most of the people want all that. Therefore, Mr. Prime Minister, they do not want you. It is only a question of time, and in my view, not a long time, before this government is brought down and replaced by a worthy national government which will look after the interests of the people of Israel and not the interests of its enemies. That is the big difference today between your policy and ours.

No-Confidence Motions Rejected

TA1505142895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset has rejected no-confidence motions in the government presented by the National Religious Party and Tzomet factions over the implementation of the autonomy bill. The bill was supported by 57 Knesset members [MK's], while 48 MK's voted against it.

As for the second motion of no confidence, the finance minister removed the proposed parallel-tax bill from the agenda after it transpired that the government did not have a majority. HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] subsequently retracted its motion of no confidence.

Rabin, Jerusalem Mayor View Expropriation Decision

TA1405170095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed that approximately six months ago he had rejected requests to approve additional land expropriations in Jerusalem.

As for the decision reached by the cabinet today, the prime minister explained that it referred to the government's intention to refrain from expropriating any more land for housing purposes in the capital. The prime minister went on to qualify that additional land could nevertheless be expropriated in Jerusalem for the purpose of building roads or to meet infrastructure requirements, as is the case in central Israel. For the time being, however, there are no such plans.

Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that the prime minister was speaking at the inauguration ceremony for the recently renovated soldier's hostel in Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Rabin will address the Knesset tomorrow during the political debate opening its summer session. [passage omitted]

Reacting to the cabinet's decision to freeze future land expropriations, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said that the government was acting in a foolish and impulsive fashion. This was a miserable decision, Olmert said, and the result of capitulation to left-wing figures such as Shulamit Aloni and Ahmad al-Tibi. In reply to a question from our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky, the

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mayor said it would have been better to expropriate 15,000 dunams seeing as the very act of expropriation had already led to international pressure in any case. [passage omitted]

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the Arab League said that he intends to convene a summit of Arab leaders to discuss the land expropriations in Jerusalem. Ahmad al-Tibi, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, said that the summit would be held in Morocco with the participation of seven Arab leaders at the initiative of King Hassan of Morocco.

Minister: No Vatican Land To Be Seized on Har Gilo

TA1205152095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The plan to expropriate land belonging to the Cremisan Monastery near Jerusalem has been canceled. The plan called for building a connecting road to Har Gilo, thereby bypassing the security hazard emanating from Bayt Jala. Minister Shim'on Shetrit announced that no land belonging to the monastery in the area will be expropriated. He said this after examining the issue with the relevant elements, including the coordinator of activities in the territories and senior political elements. It has been learned that the Vatican brought pressure to bear in this issue. Minister Shetrit made these remarks to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Urges Stop to All Jerusalem Land Seizures

TA1205152295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the wake of Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit's remarks about the plan to confiscate land belonging to the Cremisan Monastery near Jerusalem, Minister Yosi Sarid called for stopping the expropriation of land in the capital immediately.

If there is still somebody who has such plans he should dismiss them, Sarid said, adding that that is Meretz' position. Sarid said that the fact that the Jerusalem Arabs have been discriminated against since 1967 has harmed Israel's status in the city, and will also be felt in the future.

Sarid spoke in Jerusalem and his remarks were brought in by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. [passage omitted]

Demonstration Held To Protest Land Confiscation

NC1205210695 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, May 12 (AFP) — About 100 Israelis and Palestinians staged a demonstration here on Friday [12 May] to protest Israel's confiscation of land in occupied Arab East Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem is the capital of two states, Israel and Palestine," the demonstrators chanted.

They called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's government to rescind a decision to confiscate 53 hectares (131 acres) of land in the eastern sector of the city, annexed in 1967, to build houses for Jews.

Palestinian official Faysal al-Husayni, who is in charge of the Jerusalem issue within PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule authority, said: "It is inconceivable that one part of the city should be free and another under occupation."

The plans to confiscate the land have created an international uproar and the UN Security Council was expected to debate the plan on Friday.

Israel, which annexed East Jerusalem in 1967, has proclaimed the entire city as its "eternal and indivisible capital" but the PLO wants the eastern part of the city to become the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Senior Circles 'Sharply Critical' of Confiscation

TA1205175295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet will discuss the land confiscation issue during its 14 May session. It appears that the timing of the confiscation and the damage caused to the peace process will then be criticized. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that senior political and governmental circles are sharply critical of the decisionmaking process in the confiscation issue and the embarrassing lack of coordination shown in such a sensitive issue.

Daily Urges Winning Jerusalem Through Diplomacy

TA1405101995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 May 95 p 2

[Editorial by Sever Plotzker: "Beware of Fire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has not started "a battle for Jerusalem." Israel is not declaring war on the Palestinian inhabitants of its capital. Those who talk about "a battle for Jerusalem" are sawing away at one of the main

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pillars of Israel's claim to all of Jerusalem and seriously harm this objective.

The world has changed: 1995 is not 1968. The days when the capital's fate was decided by the number of neighborhoods built by one nation at the expense of another are over.

For the powerful, democratic, Western world to recognize our hold over all of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, we must now and in the future prove not only our historical and national right to the city, but also our ability to develop Jerusalem for the benefit of all its residents, irrespective of religion or nationality.

No country will recognize our ownership over all of Jerusalem if it is impeded by acts of dispossession and discrimination against at least one-third of the city's inhabitants.

Therefore, any additional expropriation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem for Jewish construction weakens rather than strengthens Israel's hold on Jerusalem. It pushes international recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel further away rather than bringing it closer.

If Jerusalem's mayor genuinely wants Israel's hold on the town to be strengthened, he should try to prove to the town's Arab residents that he is their mayor as well. A wise mayor would initiate wide-ranging construction for the dense Arab population and not be lured into an empty show of strength through petty and irritating expropriations. Nothing good will come of it: not for Jerusalem, not for Israelis, and not for peace.

The State of Israel in 1995 has diplomatic relations with almost all the countries of the world, including Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians, all of whom fully recognized us politically. This is a new reality in which the "battle for Jerusalem" cannot be won with guns or neighborhoods and unilateral land seizures, but through a distinct diplomatic battle which, like all diplomatic struggles, will end in negotiations, compromise, and agreement between the sides.

Let us not fan the flames of war in Jerusalem so that Jerusalem does not follow Sarajevo's example.

Interior Minister Resigns, Retains Tourism Post

TA1505162695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 'Uzi Bar'am has announced that he is resigning as minister of the interior. Explaining that personal and family reasons were behind his decision, Bar'am said he will serve only as minister of tourism. Bar'am was appointed to the post after it had been left vacant for two years when Arye Der'i of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] had to step down to face corruption charges. There is no indication who will take over from Bar'am or when he will leave the ministry.

Rabinovich: No New U.S. Proposal, No Meeting al-Asad Son

TA1605082795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 May 95

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of Israeli delegation for talks with Syria, by Mikha Friedman in Washington — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] According to the latest reports from Washington, yesterday Bill Clinton submitted a detailed U.S. proposal to Syria aimed at bridging the gap concerning security arrangements on the Golan Heights. Is it true that the United States is changing from a mediator and sponsor to an active participant in the negotiations?

[Rabinovich] The answer is no. As a matter of fact, President Clinton did not submit a U.S. proposal to the Syrians. President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher attempted today to convince Syria to stop insisting on discussing principles, but focus on the security arrangements on the ground. I want to emphasize that there is no U.S. proposal aimed at bridging the gap between Israel and Syria.

[Friedman] Are there, perhaps, new Israeli proposals which the Americans relayed yesterday to President al-Asad via his foreign minister?

[Rabinovich] No. We are not dealing with new Israeli proposals here. We have been engaged in these specific negotiations for several months now, and we do not believe that new proposals are called for, because the material currently under discussion includes all the hints and all the solutions that will enable the sides to achieve progress, if they so desire.

[Friedman] Does the fact that yesterday's discussions in the White House focused mainly on future security arrangements on the Golan Heights, rather than on the territorial aspect of the arrangement, indicate that Syria has in fact registered Israel's talk on a withdrawal to the international border and now regards it as a concrete Israeli proposal?

[Rabinovich] No. I believe the answer to this question is also in the negative. We are currently operating within the framework determined a year ago, during the spring of 1994, with the help of the secretary of state. Within

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this framework the discussion on the border or nature of peace should be delayed until there is agreement, or at least progress, on other issues such as the security issue. We insisted that the order of the discussions as determined last year should be adhered to, and we are still operating under this framework.

[Friedman] Both al-Asad and Rabin have recently said they are not concerned about the time factor, and that they will continue with the negotiations until they feel they have achieved what they desire. Is it possible that Bill Clinton told Syria yesterday, and perhaps Israel too, that he is operating under time restrictions, and that come autumn he will be totally involved in his reelection, and that consequently the negotiations should be completed by then?

[Rabinovich] I believe that the Americans believe, generally speaking, that it is preferable to score progress in 1995 than in 1996, which is an election year in America and elsewhere. This is their general position. President Clinton and his administration, however, did not present us with any timetable. I can tell you in no uncertain terms that during the prime minister's visit to Washington and during his talks with President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher no timetable beyond the next few weeks was mentioned. The discussions focused on the nature of the negotiations and on how to overcome the obstacles and resume the security discussions — perhaps by the end of May or during June. Nobody spoke about autumn or winter.

[Friedman] Will Warren Christopher come to Israel next week?

[Rabinovich] This is still uncertain. Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' is not authorized to officially react to what the Americans said. He will either hear from President al-Asad while still here in Washington, something which will enable him to give the Americans an answer one way or another, or return to Damascus and brief President al-Asad in detail, in which case the Americans will receive an answer later this week. Only then will it become clear whether a visit by the secretary of state at this stage is warranted.

[Friedman] Is it possible that Professor Itamar Rabinovich is the one who met Dr. Bashshar al-Asad, son of the Syrian president?

[Rabinovich, laughing] No, I have not met anybody from the al- Asad family.

[Friedman] Do you know whether anybody else held this secret meeting?

[Rabinovich] I know nothing about such a secret meeting. I know that AFP reported such a meeting, but at this point it is nothing more than an AFP report.

[Friedman] Until somebody in Israel or Syria confirms that such a meeting was indeed held.

[Rabinovich] True.

[Friedman] Referring to the difference between the 4 June 1967 border and the international border, Foreign Minister Peres told the cabinet that during his meeting with President Mubarak he spoke about this issue. What was his intention?

[Rabinovich] The explanation is very simple. Syria constantly declares it is demanding a full withdrawal, which according to their interpretation does not refer to the international border but rather to the 4 June 1967 border. This naturally raises the question what is the difference between the two lines, and what is the significance of this difference. This is an interesting question, and I think that the foreign minister explained to Egypt — a country that fulfills a regional role in the Israeli-Arab peace process — the importance of this difference and why this is more problematic than other Syrian demands.

[Friedman] An interesting, albeit academic question, not so?

[Rabinovich] An interesting question deserving further study.

New Consensus on Syria Said Forged With U.S.

TA120 155795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 95 p 8

[Article by Alon Pinkas: "American Pressure: A Thing of the Past"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Before leaving for Washington, Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a group of defense correspondents that Israel should be careful not to portray itself as having any involvement in determining the fate of the regime in Iran.

"We should be constantly alerting the world to Iran's menacing policies of sponsoring terror, and we must keep warning the world of the adverse and terrible effects Iran's nuclear weapons requisition efforts will create. But appearing to intervene in the regime's fate would be tantamount to a declaration of war," Rabin said.

Rabin's case was well served by President Bill Clinton who, a day before Rabin's arrival, announced a total ban on trade and commercial ties with Iran.

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And, in a very uncharacteristic emotional outburst, Secretary of State Warren Christopher lashed out at Iran, describing it as a dangerous and reckless country.

The context was Clinton's visit to Russia, in which he was to relay to the Russians what Christopher labeled as "sensitive intelligence information" concerning Iran's nuclear program. The objective was to dissuade Russia from proceeding with the sale of a gas-centrifuge unit and two reactors in a deal worth $1 billion.

Yeltsin on Wednesday said he would abandon the sale of the gas centrifuge and delay, at least temporarily, the sale of the two nuclear reactors.

Rabin told his hosts that in Lebanon's al-Biqa' Valley, a sophisticated printing press forges $100 bills. Some $2 billion has already been produced, probably by ex-East German document-forgery specialists employed by Iran, but not in Iran, in order not to incriminate the regime.

Rabin also presented the U.S. with Israel's assessments of Iran's military buildup, which threatens the Gulf more than it does Israel. Once the Iranian danger had been discussed — much to the credit of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). which has relentlessly lobbied to elevate the issue to the top of both the administration's and Congress's agenda — Rabin was asked about the motive of Syrian-Iranian relations.

"There is no ideological partnership there," said one of Rabin's aides, who was briefed by the prime minister. "No country has done more to crush Moslem militants than Syria."

That led to the forging of a new consensus between Washington and Jerusalem on Syria's relative isolation and on the status of negotiations between Israel and Syria.

"We hope to quickly renew the talks between our respective chiefs of general staff, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq and Gen. Hikmat al- Shihabi," Rabin told Clinton, Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry and the Congressional leaders he met on Capitol Hill.

According to a close aide, Rabin views Clinton as the friendliest president since Richard Nixon. So Rabin was reassured, some say relieved, to find out that Israel and the U.S. enjoy a tacit understanding on Syria.

Both Rabin and Clinton would rather postpone any possible progress in the negotiations until after the 1996 elections in both countries.

Rabin realizes that there will be neither a reward nor a political penalty for failing to conclude a deal with Syria prior to the elections.

Clinton is aware that the Republican-controlled Congress is introverted, if not outrightly isolationist, and therefore his administration would find it extremely difficult, and politically costly, to pick up the tab — which Israeli officials estimate at no less than $5 billion — for a final Israeli-Syrian deal. The estimation is based on a compensation package for Israeli military hardware and possible partial financing for monitoring security arrangements.

Since Israel and Syria cannot agree on any of the four components of the negotiations (borders, time of withdrawal, normalization and security arrangements), and since Syria is adamant about "equal footing" and symmetry in security arrangements, the talks are essentially deadlocked, according to an aide briefed by Rabin after his one-on-one meeting with the president.

Rabin was also assured by Clinton that the U.S. does not intend to submit any proposals that would obligate either side, according to the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But while on Syria and Iran there was a general agreement, Rabin was somewhat surprised to realize the extent to which the U.S. seems to be uninterested in the negotiations with Palestinians, said a State Department official, who declined to be identified. The Israeli-Palestinian issue, which dominates the Rabin government's agenda, is considered by the U.S. as a distant domestic issue for Israelis and Palestinians.

The Palestinian Authority's [PA] compliance with the Oslo accords may be of interest to some senators, but ultimately the administration is not preoccupied with it. Nor was it visibly moved by Rabin's grim description of the PA's abject economic situation.

"I found him (Rabin) more optimistic than I expected on the PLO getting its act together," said Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy after his meeting with Rabin. "I agree that if we place tough new conditions that cut off aid to the PLO, the U.S. would lose all leverage."

Leahy is a Democrat, however, and Rabin surely realizes that the Republicans are unlikely to provide the Palestinians with more than the $500 million pledged, which constitutes 23 percent of the total sum the donor countries promised 'Arafat.

Rabin has returned with the knowledge that the term "American pressure" is currently obsolete, but he is well aware of the abundant local pressures.

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Minister Accuses Europe of Expanding Ties With Iran

TA1305125295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Efrayim Sne, who is visiting Washington, says that European countries are expanding their relations with Iran and are dealing with Iranian companies in lieu of American companies prevented by the U.S. embargo from continuing trading with Iran. Minister Sne says that the Shell oil company is trying to acquire the concession for the Iranian oil field which the American company Conoco was forced to give up by President Clinton's decree. Minister Sne also says that Europe is buying half of Iran's oil and intends to buy even more. He claims that the Iranian Navy is holding maneuvers for a takeover operation of the Strait of Hormuz. Minister Sne, who addressed the heads of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, called on them to apply pressure to induce Europe to join the U.S. embargo on Iran.

UN Envoy Hails NPT Renewal as 'Great Achievement'

TA1305151495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 13 May 95

[Telephone interview with Gad Ya'aqobi, ambassador to the United Nations, in New York, by correspondent David Essing, in the studio; date not given; from the "Spotlight" program — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Essing] Would you say the fact that the UN conference decision to renew the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] does not mention Israel is a victory of sorts?

[Ya'aqobi] It's a great achievement to the state of Israel. The achievement is not just in it, but in the indefinite extension of the NPT, which was our interest and our position. It will decrease the pressure on Israel in the future, and it serves very well the interests of the West and the United States. But the fact that Israel was not singled out in the resolution is a great achievement for us, and I think that we can be satisfied following this development.

[Essing] But the resolution does call on all Middle East states, without exception, to sign the treaty. Isn't this aimed at Israel?

[Ya'aqobi] It is aimed to other countries as well. It is not singling out Israel. It aims to Oman, or to Djibouti, or the Emirates, and to other countries, not necessarily to Israel, and this is, I think, legitimate from the UN's point of view and from our point of view.

[Essing] But I know that Syria's delegate to the conference accused Israel of behaving as if it is above international law. What is your response to that?

[Ya'aqobi] It's of course a blame without ground, because we explained many times that we are in a very unique and special position; we are the only country in the Middle East which is being threatened directly by other countries in our region for total destruction of the state of Israel. As long as we are facing this situation, we cannot decrease the deterrence ability of Israel by giving up the ambiguity on this matter concerning Israel. We are not admitting, we are not denying anything, but we are not ready to give up the ambiguity which increases the deterrence ability of us facing those threats. [passage omitted]

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Envoy Urges UN To Implement Resolution on Jerusalem

JN1605065595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The UN Security Council tonight resumed its discussions of the Israeli decision to confiscate 535 donums of Jerusalem land. A number of representatives, including 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, spoke during the discussions.

In his address to the Security Council during tonight's discussions, 'Adnan 'Abu-'Awdah said the Israeli measure to confiscate land in Jerusalem contradicts Security Council Resolution 242 — the basis of the ongoing peace process — as well as other related Security Council resolutions.

'Abu-'Awdah said the Israeli measure violates one of the most important points of the Fourth Geneva Convention of '949 and circumvents the essence and spirit of the Oslo agreement. 'Abu-'Awdah called on the UN Security Council to fully shoulder its responsibilities by adopting the draft resolution presented to the Security Council and by working to implement it.

Jordan's United Nation's representative said Jordan's participation in the UN Security Council's discussions is based on its interest in peace following the signing of the peace treaty with Israel. He said Jordan conceives of peace as comprehensive, just, and lasting. This concept is in line with the United Nations' concept of the desired peace in the Middle East, as well as Israel's declared concept of peace.

'Abu-'Awdah noted the significance of Jerusalem to Arabs and Muslims. He said: Jerusalem is not just territory. It is territory, people, and a creed. He said Jerusalem is the key to a lasting peace and that reaching a just and balanced solution to this issue will be the firm basis of this peace. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti: Country Targeted by Jerusalem Moves

JN1605104195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 May 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nabil al-Ghizawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres's message on the Jerusalem issue was in response to Jordan's message to the Israeli Government on the confiscation of Arab land in occupied Jerusalem.

He said Peres's message, once again, contains justifications and pretexts for the Israeli decision to confiscate Palestinian land and says the issue is not political, but purely technical. Al-Kabariti said the message indicates that 67 percent of the confiscated land is owned by Israelis and that only 23 percent of the land is owned by Arabs. In his message, the Israeli foreign minister hopes that this process will not obstruct the peace process and calls for looking beyond the Israeli measure and efforts to achieve joint objectives,

Al-Kabariti reiterated that Jordan does not agree in any way to dealing with the Jerusalem issue, the expropriation of land, and current excavations as a technical issue. He said that before 4 June 1967 Jerusalem was under Jordanian sovereignty and that the city was included in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said Jordan does not accept any measure that contradicts the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The minister said the Israeli measure directly targets Jordan and shows disrespect for Jordan's role in Jerusalem, — a role approved and recognized in the agreements reached between Israel and Jordan. In another development, al-Kabariti expressed his indignation over the draft bill which the U.S. Congress Republican Majority Leader plans to present on transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. He said this measure totally contradicts the spirit of the peace process and international legitimacy resolutions.

Al-Kabariti welcomed the U.S. Administration's position on the draft bill. He said: We hope the U.S. Administration and the legislative power will agree not to allow any measure to affect the final status of Jerusalem in a way that contradicts charters and concluded agreements.

The minister also welcomed reports about convening a Arab mini-summit to discuss the Jerusalem issue. He said Jordan was not absent from any Arab meeting. He added: We welcome any effort that supports Arab right. However, we did not receive an official invitation to this summit, the date and venue of which has not yet been fixed.

In response to a question, al-Kabariti said Jordan's relations with Gulf states are good. He expressed the Jordanian Government's thanks to the Saudi Arabian Government for its stand and the facilities it offered to the Jordanian pilgrims in terms of the number of those allowed to perform pilgrimage and the high level of technical facilities.

On appointing a new Jordanian ambassador to sisterly Syria, the minister said this issue is currently being studied and will be included in the Foreign Ministry's anticipated appointments.

On the issue of Jordanians detained by the Iraqi Government and what was discussed with the Iraqi foreign

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minister in this regard, al-Kabariti said the fraternal Iraqi side promised to study the issue and to look into each detainees case. He added: The Iraqis will provide us with information. They promised to respond positively to this issue.

In another development, the minister said that German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will pay an official visit to Jordan on 4 and 5 June.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said Jordan is continuing its diplomatic efforts to explain the dangers of Israeli measures. The foreign minister is expected to meet with the ambassadors of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France as well as the Vatican's apostolic delegate on Thursday [18 May] to follow up the issue of the Israeli measures rejected by Jordan.

Paper: Israeli Moves 'Poison' Regional Atmosphere

JN1505084295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 May 95 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "A Provocative Message"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when the UN Security Council is still discussing the Israeli confiscation of Arab land in occupied Jerusalem and at a time when international reactions denouncing this Israeli behavior continue, the Israeli Government met and officially approved the confiscation of Arab land.

Without doubt, the message conveyed by this Israeli decision is very clear, meaningful, and concise. The message is that while the ink on the peace treaty with the Hebrew state is not yet dry, no value is attached to any Arab reaction and no consideration is given to any objection even if it comes from other states.

We are not exaggerating at all when we say that the official adoption at this time of a decision to confiscate Arab land in Jerusalem constitutes great disdain for the feelings of hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims who at one point in time appeared close to opening the doors for dealing with Israel following the recent peace developments.

However, all Israel's actions throughout the past few months, including its decision to confiscate land in Jerusalem, constitute an organized act of sabotage by Yitzhaq Rabin's government to poison the regional atmosphere. This sabotage also aims to give extremists all the pretexts they are looking for, belittle the peace course adhered to by the defenders of the peace process, and waste some of what has been achieved on this or that track.

In light of all this, we believe that a swift move to convene a mini Arab summit with one topic on its agenda — the present and future of occupied Arab Jerusalem — could constitute an Arab response at the highest levels of decisionmaking if not an immediate response to such an Israeli challenge to the Arabs. Meanwhile, Israel believes there is no one who can save Jerusalem and no one to respond to its eternal and holy call.

Government, Opposition Clash on Normalization Issue

MM1605140995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Signs of Confrontation in Jordan Between Authorities and Opposition Parties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Informed diplomatic sources in Amman have revealed that signs are beginning to emerge of confrontation between the Jordanian authorities and the opposition parties because of the opposition parties' call for a conference against normalization with Israel. Meanwhile, Jordanian official sources have confirmed that Jordan's parliament will begin its extraordinary session at the beginning of June to discuss the removal of Israel's name from laws which regarded it as an "enemy" before the treaty between the two countries was signed.

On the question of likely confrontation, the sources told AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the opposition parties insist on holding a news conference 26 May despite the Jordanian Government's refusal to grant a permit for that. If the government prevented the holding of the conference at the headquarters of the professional unions in Amman, it would be held at the headquarters of the Islamic Action Front. The sources added that the documents to be produced at the conference accuse the Jordanian Government of ceding Jerusalem and ignoring the issues of the refugees and evacuees.

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Clinton Receives al-Shar' at White House

Talks Address 'Obstacles' to Peace

JN1505181195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the White House today. The talks focused on the peace process in all its aspects. President Clinton asked al-Shar' to convey a message to President al-Asad dealing with the peace process.

President Clinton explained the U.S. efforts to give momentum to the peace process, particularly on the Syrian track, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The foreign minister conveyed President al-Asad's greetings to President Bill Clinton and reaffirmed Syria's commitment to a just peace and to its requirements based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. The meeting was attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim.

Earlier this morning, a round of official talks was held at the U.S. State Department in Washington between al-Shar' and Christopher. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, chief of the Syrian negotiating delegation; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington. On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended Dennis Ross, coordinator of the Middle East peace process; Mark Parris, Middle East affairs adviser at the National Security Council; and Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the peace process and the obstacles it faces.

Al-Shar' Details Talks

JN1605061695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. President Bill Clinton received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the White House yesterday. The talks focused on the peace process in all its aspects. President Clinton asked al-Shar' to convey a message to President al-Asad dealing with the peace process. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stressed that any security arrangements must be equal [mutasawiyah] and balanced [mutawazinah] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 line.

Answering journalists' questions following a meeting with the U.S. President yesterday, al-Shar' said President Clinton is serious about helping the parties concerned in order to give a push forward to the peace process.

The foreign minister said he discussed with President Clinton Israel's confiscation of Arab land in occupied Jerusalem, stressing that this step harms the peace process.

Al-Shar' said he also discussed with President Clinton extremist calls being made in Washington about moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. Al-Shar' described moving the U.S. Embassy as tantamount to aborting the peace process, emphasizing that Jerusalem is part of the 1967 occupied Arab territories.

Asked about the possibility of resuming the talks on the Syrian track, the foreign minister said: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not leave the U.S. side with any elements to persuade Syria to resume the talks.

Answering another question, al-Shar' said the progress of the peace process hinges on Israel's commitment to the requirements of peace enshrined in the UN Security Council resolutions, including full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The minister added that he will resume discussion of the principles and objectives of the peace process with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said there are still big differences between the stands of Syria and Israel toward all the major issues related to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

In a statement to the press, Christopher said: We are continuing discussions on the best ideas and formulas to push the peace process forward.

Christopher hosted a working luncheon in honor of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying him at the White House's guest quarters. The talks dealt with relations between Syria and the United States and means of promoting them.

Talks Called 'New Chance' To Save Peace

JN1605071195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH writes on the constants of the Syrian stance toward the Middle East peace process. It says: Syria has dealt sincerely and positively with this process and secured all the requirements and conditions for it with the objective of a just and comprehensive peace based on

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the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Syrian stand toward the peace process is based on a host of constants which are agreed upon by the Arabs and the international community, and which say that the aspired peace cannot be achieved except by liberating all the Arab territories and restoring all the usurped rights in a way that guarantees the Arabs' interests, their security, and future.

The paper says: The Israeli stand, which opposes and sabotages the peace process and which is based on the continuation of the policy of intransigence, prevarication, procrastination, and wrangling proves, without a doubt, that Israel rejects a just and comprehensive peace, and insists on continuing the policy of aggression and expansion.

AL-BA'TH warns the international community against the collapse of the peace process as a result of the intransigent Israeli stand which rejects the bases and requirements of peace.

In this regard, the paper says: The peace cosponsors, particularly the United States, should carry out a serious and decisive action to put an end to Israel's intransigence and subversive maneuverings.

Concluding, the paper says: Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Washington and his meetings with President Clinton and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher constitute a new chance provided by Syria to save the peace process and to set it back on the right course.

In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN writes on the international pressures which must be exerted on Israel to force it to abandon the policy of arrogance, expansion, and aggression.

The paper says: It is impossible for us to pin much hopes on the international pressures on Israel as long as the current Arab situation is fragmented and suffering from splits and deterioration.

TISHRIN adds: Modern history shows that the international community will be ready to exert pressures on Israel when the Arab situation is cohesive. Every time Arab solidarity was strong Israel's international isolation escalated and the possibilities of pressuring it increased.

The paper expresses the hope that the current Israeli provocation against the Arabism of Jerusalem will awaken some Arabs from their sleep, improve the conditions of reactivating Arab solidarity, and redress the Arab situation. It also expresses the hope that this will also pave the way for the Arab awakening.

The paper stresses: Developments proved Israel does not want peace with the Arabs. Neither does it respect their existence, rights, and interests. The Rabin government is continuing its policy of preparing for war, aggression, and expansion.

Al-Asad's Son 'Secretly' Meets Israeli's in London

JN1505141095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] AFP has cited well-informed sources as saying that Syrian President al-Asad's son Bashshar met secretly with Israeli officials in London in mid-April in connection with the ongoing talks between Damascus and Tel Aviv. According to the same sources, the identity of the Israeli officials with whom Bashshar al-Asad met during the third week of last month has not been revealed. So far, there has been no reaction from Damascus in this regard.

Report Denied as 'Baseless'

JN1505204095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Asked about an AFP report on a meeting Dr. Bashshar al-Asad [President Hafiz al-Asad's son] allegedly held with Israeli envoys in London, Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said:

The AFP report is baseless. We are used to hearing about intrigues and rumors on secret Syrian-Israeli meetings propagated by certain quarters every now and then. The Syrian-Israeli negotiations, which are sponsored by the United States in Washington, are run by competent people. Dr. Bashshar al-Asad is not charged with taking part in the peace talks either secretly or openly.

Radio Rejects Peres Statements on Golan Withdrawal

JN1505155595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 15 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The new statements attributed to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the Syrian track of the peace process must arouse attention. However, these statements are still far from the essence and foundation of the peace process and are not in line with UN resolutions. Whether Peres was making statements or giving explanations, his remarks were about Israel's readiness to withdraw from the Golan to the international borders that were delineated during the First World War.

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In other words, Israel still refuses to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines. Thus, it is evading the international resolutions that served as the foundation for the Madrid peace conference, called for Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June [1967] lines, and determined the inadmissibility of the possession of land through the use of force. This is not the first time Israel has tried to bypass international resolutions and work out new terms of reference for the peace process that would meet Israel's ambitions toward Arab lands or at least part of these lands.

Throughout more than three years, Israel has avoided any announcement of its readiness to withdraw from the entire Golan. Israeli officials used to talk about a withdrawal in the Golan at times and demand security arrangements inside the Golan at other times, rejecting parallel and equal [mutawaziyah wa mutasawiyah] arrangements and insisting on testing Syria's intentions through delaying the partial withdrawal from the Golan for many years. At the same time, they are in a hurry to establish multifaceted relations, in addition to other similar demands that are the fruits of, and not the preludes to, peace.

Today, when there is talk about withdrawal to the international borders or when one or another Israeli official explains the difference between the international borders and the 4 June 1967 lines, the goal is the same and has not changed a bit, that is, Israel's insistence on continuing to occupy some parts of the Syrian lands that have been occupied since 1967. Talk about borders that were drawn up during the First World War, when Israel had not even been created yet, means that Israel does not want to return what it occupied during the June 1967 aggression. This position leads us to believe that Israel most likely does not wish to have real and just peace that returns land to its owners, terminates the state of belligerency, and ushers in a new era for the region.

The international resolutions, the foremost of which are Resolutions 242 and 338, stipulate that it is necessary for Israel to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders. These resolutions never referred to international borders. Israel's invention of this new idea does not mean that it has come any closer to the essence of the peace process. Rather, it means that Israel has deviated from this essence and attempt to acquire Arab lands under new pretexts and excuses, which might seem at first glance logical and based on an objective foundation.

Syria, which has been and continues to be committed to the UN resolutions and the peace process, views this peace process as a step toward achieving the sought goal; namely, peace that returns all the occupied lands to its owners. Syria seeks genuine peace, which means an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June [1967] lines and not to any other borders that long preceded the Arab-Israeli conflict. When Israel shows readiness to meet the requirements of peace as acknowledged by the entire world, it will find the road open to achieve this goal. Continued talk about partial withdrawals and withdrawal to certain borders will lead nowhere and will never make peace.

Information Minister Meets Sudanese Counterpart

JN1405153895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman at noon today received Sudanese Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat. Sudanese Ambassador in Damascus 'Uthman al-Dardiri attended the meeting.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the current relations of fraternity and cooperation between the two sisterly countries, particularly in the information field, as well as ways to consolidate and promote them.

Talks also dealt with the recent preparations to hold the Islamic information ministers conference, scheduled to be held in Damascus on 24 May.

For his part, Sabdarat lauded the national and pan-Arab positions Syria is taking under President Hafiz al-Asad. He also hailed Syria's pioneering role in defending the just Arab causes. He voiced pleasure at holding the Islamic information ministers conference on the land of Arab Damascus and for the efforts being exerted to make this conference a success.

India

Reportage on Events Related to Kashmir Incident

Rao Affirms Election Process

BK1505162895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao categorically told the Lok Sabha that the revival of the electoral process in Jammu and Kashmir will not be stopped despite the Charar Sharif incident. Squarely blaming Pakistan and its mercenaries for the burning down of the shrine, Mr. Rao declared that the government will not oblige Islamabad, which is out to scuttle the political process. Replying to a marathon discussion on an adjournment motion, he said that government has succeeded in creating an atmosphere for the polls and it is now up to the election commission to satisfy itself for conducting the poll. Later, the motion was defeated following a division.

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Rebutting the opposition charge of inaction, Mr. Rao said the security forces did not storm the shrine as it would have led to a destruction besides huge civilian casualties. He denied any direction from the center on operational matters which were taken by security forces and the state administration. Mr. Rao said the number two man of the mercenaries has been apprehended. He said an all-party delegation is to visit the state to find out the facts.

Earlier, opposition members in both houses of Parliament rapped the government for the Charar Sharif incident and demanded its resignation for the failure to protect the shrine. They alleged that no prompt action was taken even as the frequenting of mercenaries to the Charar Sharif town was known to the government in December itself. Participating in the debate, the Congress-I members squarely blamed Pakistan and its mercenaries for the tragedy. The members generally called for a comprehensive and consistent policy on Kashmir. They also drew the attention of the government to the urgent need for the rehabilitation of those affected by the incident and for restoring the confidence of the people in the valley. Both the houses suspended the question hour to take up the issue. While the Lok Sabha took up the adjournment motion immediately, the Rajya Sabha began the discussion at 1230 [0700 GMT].

Moving his adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], said the strongest possible action was needed to deal with the situation created by the Pakistan-sponsored mercenaries, but the government was insensitive to the ground realities. He wanted to know how the electoral process can be taken up in Jammu and Kashmir in such a situation. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, said the burning down of the ancient shrine was timed on the eve of 'Id al-Adha to create instability. The former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said it is a matter of concern that the Army was deployed about two kilometers from the shrine for the past three months, but had not been given powers to deal with the situation. Mr. Manishankar Iyer, Congress-I, said the culpable in this incident is Pakistan and its mercenaries and therefore it is wrong to blame the government for the incident. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said the incident should be taken as a challenge and the process of elections should continue.

The discussion in the Rajya Sabha remained inconclusive. Initiating the debate, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, Janata Dal, alleged that even before foreign mercenaries occupied the shrine, the state government was aware of such a possibility, but failed to forestall it. The Congress-I members said the opposition is demanding the government's resignation without making any substantial points. There was also a demand that all efforts should be made to get Pakistan declared a terrorist state.

Meanwhile, the Charar Sharif town was today cleared of mines and improvised explosive devices laid by the militants. Army experts recovered 33 mines and explosive devices and defused them. The Army commander leading the operation told our Srinagar correspondent that most of the devices were planted on the approach road to the shrine. The Army has handed over the control of the town to the civilian authorities. Our correspondent who visited the town today reports that smoke is still coming out of some gutted houses. The holy shrine of Nuruddin Wali, and musafir khana [guest house] and khanqah [convent] have been completely destroyed, but the green mosque, which was earlier reported to have been burned, is safe. Elsewhere in the valley, the situation is reported to be under control barring some incidents of stone-pelting and arson. The curfew was relaxed in phases in Srinagar city and other places. Eleven militants were killed in separate operations in the 24 hours.

A three-member AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] delegation today held discussions in Jammu with party leaders and workers on the situation in the state.

Bangladesh has dissociated itself from the views expressed by the OIC [Organization of Islamic Countries] secretary general on the situation in Charar Sharif. The Bangladesh additional foreign secretary told newsmen in Dhaka that the statement does not reflect the views of the OIC member countries. Several organizations in the United Kingdom have also condemned the destruction of the holy shrine. They described it as a tragedy inflicted upon the secular state of India by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

Parliament Opposition Attacks Government

BK1505122995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition in both houses of Parliament today made a scathing attack on the government for the Charar Sharif incident, while the treasury benches squarely blamed Pakistan and its mercenaries for the tragedy. Demanding resignation of the government, the opposition leaders termed as total failure the handling of the situation. They alleged that no prompt action was taken to protect the shrine though the frequenting of mercenaries to the Charar Sharif town was known to the government in December itself. Both the houses suspended the question hour to take up the issue with Lok Sabha through an adjournment motion moved by Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist

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Party of India-Marxist], and the Rajya Sabha under Rule-167. The discussion in the Rajya Sabha began at 1230 after an adjournment.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M said strongest possible action was needed to grapple with the situation created by the Pakistan-sponsored mercenaries. He alleged the government was insensitive to the ground realities which led to the sacrilege of Charar Sharif. He alleged that the important religious places and towns in the valley were left to the mercy of militants and foreign mercenaries and the government owes an explanation to the people for its failure to protect the shrine. He wanted to know how electoral process can be taken up in Jammu and Kashmir in such a situation. In a spirited rebuttal to the charges, Mr. Manishankar Iyer, Congress-I, said the culpable in this incident is Pakistan and its mercenaries. Therefore, he said, it is wrong to blame the government for the incident. Expressing grief over the destruction of the ancient shrine, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Vajpayee, said the incident was timed on the eve of 'Id al-Adha to arouse passion of the people for destabilization. He said Pakistan achieved what it wanted, but the government could not get what it desired to protect the shrine.

Initiating the discussion in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, Janata Dal, demanded a detailed statement from the prime minister over the development in Charar Sharif. He alleged that even before the foreign mercenaries occupied the shrine, the state government was aware of such a possibility through intelligence sources, but failed to forestall it. Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, CPI, said the government failed to preempt the game plan of Pakistan and its henchmen. Mr. J.P. Mathur, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], said that the government has failed to counter the Pakistani propaganda over the issue. Refuting the opposition charges, Mr. R.K. Dhawan, Congress-I, said that the opposition is demanding the government's resignation without making any substantial points on the incident.

A three member delegation of the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] arrived in Jammu today for the assessment in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the recent destruction of the Charar Sharif shrine by the militants in Kashmir valley. The delegation is meeting the local party leaders and workers besides a cross section of the people to know their views, among other things, on the possibility of holding elections in the state.

Captured Militant Reveals Plans

BK1605035095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leader of the outlawed Harkatul Ansar, Abu Jindal, has revealed that his outfit has plans to infiltrate several other countries including European countries in the name of the holy war. Speaking to Doordarshan correspondent in Srinagar, he said his organization is supported by ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] agents based in Islamabad.

[Begin Correspondent Rudranath Sanyal recording] Leader of the outlawed Harkatul Ansar and mercenary, Abu Jindal, is now under the custody of the Army under heavy security. He was apprehended by the Army at Charar Sharif last week. When the Army permitted us to speak to him, he frankly admitted that all the militants and mercenaries at Charar Sharif knew beforehand that foreign mercenary Mast Gul had plans to burn down the holy shrine. Mast Gul belongs to the Hizbul Mujahideen. Abu Jindal said that the plan was finalized following differences between the Hizbul Mujahideen and the Harkatul Ansar. The Army unit that conducted the operation at Charar Sharif recovered a notebook used by a militant containing details about crude but dangerous explosive devices. Today, about half the town had been reduced to this (?state) as a result of the fire and damages caused by the explosives that were planted by the mercenaries all over the town. The main business center of the town is completely deserted because those who survived the fire have moved away to safer places for fear of the hidden explosives. The Army engineers have recovered and destroyed most of the planted improvised explosive devices. Some of these were recovered from the premises of the holy shrine. The beautiful structure of the holy shrine was completely destroyed in the fire. Explosive experts suspect that some of the improvised explosive devices might still be hidden in this area. [end recording]

Commentary Assesses Chavan's Visit to Srinagar

BK1505051595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 May 95

[Commentary by Ajit Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit of the central team led by the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, to Srinagar yesterday has clarified the government's stand on three vital issues arising out of the destruction of the Charar Sharif shrine by the militants last week. One of these issues is the possibility of holding the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir before 18th of July, when the present spell of the president's rule expires. The state governor had told the central team that the

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state machinery is competent to deal with any situation that the militants will attempt to create at the behest of their Pakistani masters.

Election preparations are already at a fairly advanced stage. The administration is working out plans for deployment of staff on election duty. The political parties are preparing the lists of their candidates. Elections can expose the Pakistani design on Kashmir, and that is why it is making all out efforts to scuttle the electoral process. Charar Sharif shrine destruction was part of the same game plan. Notwithstanding the Pakistani propaganda to blame the security forces, people know that they were the foreign mercenaries from Pakistan who did not spare even a sufi shrine of Kashmir for the accomplishment of their nefarious designs. But people are also very sore that the security forces could not protect the holy shrine and even the main culprit, Mast Gul, managed to escape after setting the shrine on fire.

Reconstruction of the shrine is the second important issue. The home minister has made it clear that the government would provide technical and financial help for construction of the shrine by local religious and social leaders as per the original architecture of the shrine. The third and, no doubt, the most urgent issue is the rehabilitation of over 1,000 families of Charar Sharif town whose houses and shops were burnt down by the militants. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has assured all help to construct a model township at Charar. The prime minister has already sanctioned 15 crore rupees. The state government has announced its relief packages. The state tourism and planning department is finalizing a blueprint of the new Charar township. The rehabilitation work must start immediately and be finished at the earliest. Follow up action on the visit of the team will help assuage the sentiments of the people and mitigate the problems of those rendered homeless by the actions of the militants.

Iran

IAEA Representative: We Are Not Building Atomic Bomb

AU1605101395 Munich FOCUS in German 15 May 95 p 273

[Interview with Sadeq Ayatollahi, representative with the IAEA, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "We Are Not Building a Bomb"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [FOCUS] Could you please explain the agreement with Russia on the delivery of a nuclear power plant?

[Ayatollahi] Before we concluded the deal with Russia, we had an agreement with the Germans covering a nuclear power plant. Unfortunately, the Germans did not complete the project after the Islamic revolution.

[FOCUS] So the Russians have to step in.

[Ayatollahi] They will make the plant ready for operation and supply the fuel rods. We will give them back the fuel rods that might be used for the production of weapons.

[FOCUS] Do you object to the inspection of your nuclear plants?

[Ayatollahi] No, we are open to every inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The inspectors are welcome whenever they want to come.

[FOCUS] The United States is afraid that Iran might use the reactor to train a team of technicians who might build an atomic bomb once Iran has access to weapons-grade plutonium.

[Ayatollahi] These are very hypothetical scenarios. If Iran should have sufficient technicians in 20 years, if Iran receives the equipment required for the enrichment of uranium from Russia, if... For me this means taking in nonexperts.

[FOCUS] Why is nuclear energy so important for a country like Iran, which is rich in oil?

[Ayatollahi] The oil resources in our country are limited.... Most of our energy is generated from water, fossil material, and nuclear fission. A combination is most suitable for an effective development.

[FOCUS] Boris Yeltsin's spokesman Sergey Medvedev spoke of a "basic agreement" on the delivery of a gas centrifuge. It can be used to produce enriched uranium for weapons.

[Ayatollahi] The Iranian nuclear authority insists on the following condition: "The agreement between Iran and Russia must on no account include an open or secret program designed to produce weapons-grade nuclear material."

[FOCUS] Would this exclude the gas centrifuge?

[Ayatollahi] Yes. Concerning the nuclear power plants that are built in Iran, we proceed from the premise that we will receive the complete fuel rods from the supplier. The centrifuge or other methods serve the purpose of enrichment. We do not need that.

Iran does not want weapons-grade nuclear material — either plutonium or enriched uranium. Also, we do not have the intention of building an atomic bomb because this is against our policy and ideology. We do not believe in weapons of mass destruction.

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Oil Minister Unconcerned About U.S. Sanctions

LD1505110895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran's foreign exchange revenue from oil exports last year [last Iranian year ended 20 March 1995]] exceeded the level forecast in the budget by 30 percent, and it is expected that revenue from oil exports will also exceed estimates during the current year.

According to Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i, although oil export revenue was estimated at $10.5 billion in last year's budget, Iran — while maintaining its OPEC oil production quota — made $14 billion in foreign exchange from oil exports.

The oil minister also said the following about the possible effects of the ban on oil deals with U.S. companies:

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] In view of the fact that we are currently the second largest oil exporter in the world and that we are also the fourth country from the point of view of production, our circumstances and position in the oil market is such that the U.S. embargo will not harm our exports.

As I have said before, this U.S. embargo was a failure even before the executive order for it was signed. We are in a very good position from the point of view of finding markets and, on the basis of the last report presented to me, we have sold all our oil until about the middle of this summer. As for the period after the summer, so far we have term [preceding word spoken in English] agreements for about two million barrels. What we have left after this is a few hundred thousand barrels and these will also be sold gradually as the time comes.

On average, we are looking for [international] markets for 2.5 million barrels and this displacement from U.S. to other companies — in light of the fact that there were rumors about this for some time, we started moving away from U.S. companies] a few months ago, and at this juncture,when the United States is imposing an embargo on us, [only] a small volume of our oil was being sold to the United States, that is, to U.S. companies.

We therefore have no specific worries on the whole about this embargo and all the analyses presented in the world so far have also reflected this same reaction — that is, the U.S. embargo will have no impact on reducing Iran's revenue and that, in view of its current international position, Iran will quickly adjust to this displacement and find markets for itself. This is exactly what has happened and I have no worries about this displacement.

IRNA: No Shortage of Oil Buyers Despite Ban

LD1505105695 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, May 15, IRNA — As widely predicted, President Clinton's emergency order barring all U.S. trade with Iran has become little more than a reshuffling of supplies on the world oil market without any shortage of buyers for Iranian crude.

Refiners in the Mediterranean as well as South Africa were reported by PETROLEUM ARGUS weekly appearing the most keen to soak up Iranian oil displaced by U.S. sanctions. Suggestions were that South Korea, Taiwan and India may also step up Iranian purchases.

Oil analysts have been unanimous in the belief that President Clinton's unilateral trade boycott on Iran was ill-considered and was more likely to be counterproductive to U.S. interests than have any adverse effect on Tehran.

PETROLEUM ARGUS quoted officials from the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] being confident surplus volumes could be placed with existing customers and were concentrating on July's export program having already virtually finalised June's.

The London-based weekly found no European or Asian refiners, who had so far been constrained by their governments as all of Washington's allies were failing to follow Clinton's lead on sanctions. Expectations of Japan being restrained had also not materialised.

The only question appeared to be whether refiners would be able to take advantage of lifting extra crude on the spot market rather than through term contracts and gain from price differentials, but NIOC were said not to have cut rates because of the U.S. action.

In its assessment last week, PETROLEUM ARGUS suggested Iran could end up even better off from Clinton's ban if it sells more of its oil output into the lucrative eastern market.

Yazdi Speaks on Political, Religious Issues

Criticizes Saudia Arabia

LD1205101795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The political and religious Friday [12 May] prayers were held today throughout the country. The Muslim ummah of Iran was present. The prayer givers of Tehran performed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judicial branch, at Tehran University and its surrounding streets. [passage omitted]

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In the second sermon, the interim Friday imam of Tehran spoke about the important issues of the past week, including the guidelines of the great leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i on the disavowal of mushrikin [infidels, polytheists, pagans, heretics, unbelievers, heathens, atheists, and so forth] and criticized Saudi Arabia for preventing this ceremony from taking place.

Continuing his sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi pointed to the recent negotiations between the presidents of the United States and Russia, saying: The outcome of these negotiations has shown that the United States imagines that it rules the world, but this is an empty dream. Every country places its own interests first in international relations.

The head of the judicial branch stressed the need to continue the struggle against high prices and saboteurs, saying: The judicial branch will carry out its duties in this field decisively.

Explains 'Death to U.S.' Slogan

LD1205120695 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — Chief of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Friday [12 May] strongly criticized Saudi rulers for banning the disavowal of pagans rally.

Addressing Saudi rulers, he said "If your opposition to the disavowal of pagans ceremony over the past few years has been due to pressure exerted by foreign governments, you are dutybound, given the special status of Mecca and Medina, to provide necessary facilities for followers of various Islamic schools of thought and to resist pressure.

"But if your opposition is due to the pressure exerted by those clerics who sanction relations with the Zionist regime, one should say that their views and judgements are based on incorrect information."

Ayatollah Yazdi was addressing a large Friday prayer gathering on Tehran University campus in his capacity as the substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran.

"According to what information those (Saudi) clerics have considered the Zionist regime to be a friend of Muslim countries while this regime still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, possesses atomic weapons, continues its expansionist policies by annexing more occupied lands and blatantly violates the rights of Muslims?" he questioned. [sentence as received]

The judiciary chief said that based on documented evidence the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Zionist regime is the arch foe of Muslims and all plans offered by that regime are against Muslims.

Ayatollah Yazdi, saying the death to the U.S. slogan was an ideological and scientific principle, asked "Why shouldn't Shi'ites and Iranians express their deliverance from the U.S. and the Zionist regime in a divine place?"

Pointing to recent summit talks between the U.S. and Russian presidents, Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, Yazdi said that during negotiations with the U.S., the Russians followed their own policies and showed that they were committed to their nuclear agreements with Iran.

Referring to the resumption of Serbian attacks on the innocent people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ayatollah Yazdi denounced the United Nations for its silence on the issue.

He also termed recent incidents in Kashmir as alarming and called on the Indian Government to protect the rights of Kashmiri Muslims.

Rafsanjani Interview on Political, Economic Issues

LD1005200995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1714 GMT 9 May 95

[Second part of interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by ETTELA'AT editor Mahmud Do'a'i, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI editor Masih Mohajeri, KEYHAN editor Hoseyn Shari'atmadari, IRAN editor/IRNA chief Fereydun Verdinezhad, and HAMSHAHRI editor/Tehran Mayor Gholam-Hoseyn Karbaschi; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Do'a'i] I am going to be bold, since we are from the same region, we are both from Kerman, and I'm going to ask some personal questions. As far as I can remember, when you were a seminary student in Qom, you stood as a model to us. We benefitted from your wisdom. In any case, if you think it appropriate, be so kind as to tell us about your children; how many sons do you have and how many daughters? How many sons-in-law? What do they do? Do you allow any time for them in view of all your work and concerns? [words indistinct] Of course, your gracious wife is in Rafsanjan [home town in Kerman province] and I know that you are very devoted to her. To what extent are your in contact with her? And, if you think that it is appropriate, please tell us...

[Rafsanjani, interrupting with amusement] It is becoming a bit too personal. [laughter] As you said, our life, mine and my children's, has always been very modest

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in nature. We manage on the modest and small amount inherited from our father or the bits we had before the revolution. On the whole, we all rely on nothing more than that. There are no economic activities [business] in our immediate family; that is, the children and my brothers and so on. They are all busy serving the revolution. As long as I am an official, they do not want to become involved in economic activities.

Some of them receive state salaries. On the whole, we mostly rely on the revenue that we have which allows us to have a modest life. I am referring to what we have in Rafsanjan.

I have five children; three sons and two daughters. Two of the sons are still at university. One of them helps at the Jihad [Ministry]. Another one helps out at the Oil Ministry. My oldest son is in charge of the Special Inspectorate. Particular cases that may have some importance are referred to him.

The daughters are married now and have their own children. They also go to university. One of them helps out in the sports sector and the other one is busy with mentally handicapped people and people with difficulties, such as people with kidney diseases and haemophiliacs and so on. Of course, they are not paid for this; it is just honorary, they are doing their duty.

As to our sons-in-law, one of them is a doctor and the other one a dentist. And you know my brothers yourself. One of them is at the Foreign Ministry now; no, two are at the Foreign Ministry. Another one is retired from the Sarcheshmeh copper [company].

[Do'a'i] As far as I know, you yourself live in a rented house.

[Rafsanjani] Yes, I gave my own house to my children. They have extended it and are living there. I have rented a house for myself. Of course, the government recently bought the house and we pay a small rent to the government. We lead a modest life.

My two sisters, sorry, my three sisters are in Rafsanjan and (?Nugh). They too continue their lives in the same way as before the revolution. They live a rural life as they did before. I do not get the chance to go there very often. I have gone two or three times during this period. Of course, they sometimes come here and I am fortunate to see them here.

In any case, they try to do what they can for the revolution, to help if they can. However, we see no need to speak about this in public. The people have so many concerns and we have so many things to tell them that there is no need for speaking about this.

Unfortunately, we do encounter many instances in which crooked and corrupt people do things in our name, in my own name, with forged signatures and letters. Some relatives and so on try to take advantage. At the moment, many cases are being followed up. Some of them have been sentenced, others are being tried.

[Karbaschi] Of course, Mr. President, there is one point which needs to be made. This apparently relates to the actual nature of the job and the job itself with regard to some of the gentlemen [Rafsanjani's sons]. I was looking into one case. It related to control in the economic sector, to the activities that he was inspecting so-to-speak. The question was being asked as to why that department [Special Inspectorate] is not active. This question, for example, and the issue of inspection itself created grounds for rumors in some quarters, with suggestions, for example, that he is in fact involved in economic activities [business]. I believe that it should be explained to the people that, in any case, one of the ways that the enemy uses to cast aspersions on the great personalities of the revolution is to enter from these channels. As your eminence is aware, the eminent imam [Khomeyni] himself, with all his greatness, used to think it necessary that he should offer explanations, despite his tremendous piety, about his children. I believe that, contrary to what you said, such explanations are very necessary and useful for the people.

[Rafsanjani] Perhaps it is not really part of my duties. The people who think it is necessary should offer the explanations themselves. The situation is not ambiguous in any way.

[Shari'atmadari] Your Eminence, please forgive me, of course, I understand that, in your position, your time is very precious, with your many concerns and the intensity of your work, of which we are only aware of the tip of the iceberg and that is very great in itself. However, in view of the fact that your eminence belongs to the entire nation and, in my opinion, not just to the Iranian nation but to all Muslim nations, I wish to go back to the initial topic of discussion and to ask a question in that regard, if I may.

The issue is this: The officials involved in reconstruction, (?under your auspices) — you said that, in order to achieve a level of stability and economic splendor, we have to go through a certain phase and this phase is a difficult one. This is undoubtedly true and acceptable and the serious work which has been done with regard to the country's reconstruction is there for all to see.

However, the question which arises here is: As we go through this phase, this mountain pass if we may call it that, the greatest pressure and, in particular, financial

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pressure mainly in the form of high prices, will be on the underprivileged and deprived sections of society. There is a worry and it is this: It should not happen that, as we go through this phase, when we are crossing the mountain pass, these sections — and I am sure you will agree that they are the main supporters of the system, that is to say, they have backed the system through all the ups and downs, their hearts have beaten in time with that of the system and they have remained on the stage even at difficult times — the worry is that the pressure will be such that, once we have crossed this mountain pass, those sections will have suffered very serious harm, and it would seem that if they suffer this serious harm, there will be a threat to the revolution itself.

Of course, subsidies for essential goods is one of the measures being taken by the government on a vast scale. However, are there any other steps or solutions in mind in order to decrease the pressure on deprived strata as we go through this phase?

[Rafsanjani] It is our hope and aim that, by travelling this very path that we have chosen, we will achieve plenitude through production in order to meet people's needs and that conditions will be such that revenues and expenses are in proportion to one another and that there will be no pressure. However, I do accept that, with the current development, the infrastructural work which is being undertaken, water, electricity and other everyday needs of modern life which are being put at people's disposal, expectations in terms of consumption are also bound to rise and these expectations must be answered. They cannot remain unanswered.

During this current stage we had the idea — we had it in mind to begin this at the start of the second [five-year] plan, the groundwork has been laid — to carry out a kind of check, in a serious way, and I have laid the groundwork for this. I believe that, in view of the current level of production and the country's present resources, we can avoid the things you were worried about. I am not saying that we will meet people's level of expectation exactly. However, I believe that the problems you mentioned are resolvable.

[Mohajeri] Yes, I think that at a stage like this it is important to keep people informed on all issues so that it can be shown what is being done and what is to be expected. [passage omitted] One aspect of this issue concerns the press and the media and the need for them to endeavor to keep people informed and another aspect of this question has to do with the country's managers. It seems to me — and I am regarding the issue from a journalist's point of view — our experience shows that they are not inclined to inform us in time about events and issues or to have the right kind of contact with the media. [passage omitted] The final point is that there is not an adequate system of news selection in the country. Often we feel that if some items of news were to be issued on time, correctly, people would be informed and this would block many means of disseminating information, including rumors which, as the strongest transmitters of information, win the day. You probably have some comments on this issue which could act as guidelines for our news sources the media and also for the managers of the country.

[Rafsanjani] Yes, really it is an accepted principle everywhere now in the world that being informed is among the most vital requirements for the success of a society. [passage omitted]

I fully agree with giving more information to the people and your reference to difficulties with news selection, well, Mr. Verdinezhad who is one of the country's important sources of news is here with you. I agree that people should hear more news — the things which they should know about and the media should spend more time and work on this. I doubt if there is a minister or head of department somewhere who does not want information about his organization to be reflected in the media — I believe they would be very pleased with that even if some of this information may be negative. A person would realize that he has served in good faith and has also made some mistakes. So, come and make up your mind now — you who are the leading figures of the press — increase your relations with the senior officials and I will tell them to strengthen their links with you. This is what the public relations departments of the ministries are for. [passage omitted]

[Karbaschi] Excuse me Mr. President, I would like to return to the economic issues and development. The [first five-year] plan attached special importance to the agricultural sector. Apparently good progress was achieved in this sector to add to the general success of the first plan. It seems that in the second plan the subsidies in the agricultural sector will gradually disappear. We have already seen some subsidies disappearing. Perhaps you have concluded that the progress in this sector justifies the removal of subsidies. However, some agricultural products are strategically important and even a number of developed countries subsidize their agricultural products. Do you think the subsidies should be phased out in the second plan, and if so, how are you going to implement the task?

[Rafsanjani] Well, the second plan has proposed to maintain most of the subsidies. And about phasing out the subsidies, the industrial sector will be the first target. Much less subsidy is now allocated to

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the industrial sector. Fuel is still subsidized, which is used both in the industry and in the agricultural sector. We are still subsidizing the agricultural sector. The subsidy will continue in the second plan too. However, the objective in general is to reduce the subsidies. Nevertheless if we remove a subsidy, we offer some assistance immediately. For instance, earlier this year the prices of fertilizer and pesticides went up. As a result the Economic Council immediately passed a bill to guarantee purchase of agricultural products to protect the profit envisaged for the farmers. That is, the farmers' profit is guaranteed. In addition when an increase in the price of a crop makes the end product more expensive, then we subsidise the consumers. For example we subsidize bread prices at bakeries to protect the consumers. We have come through the phase of rapidly reducing a subsidy. Any further reduction of subsidies will be much smaller and gradual.

[Verdinezhad] Talking about various commodities: The issue of pricing has also been raised during the past year, and measures are being taken in this respect. A number of industrial goods such as steel, aluminium, copper, tires have been priced. There is a difference between the prices in the factory and the prices determined in the market. This difference in price is sometimes very high in some cases. And it has been noticed that the prices are three fold higher in the market than the in the factory in some places. There is an income coming from all these which the middlemen benefit from. It has been said that the profit [to the middleman] in the steel sector is around 100 to 150 billion tomans [one toman=10 rials] annually. However the figure might not be that correct, but the income from this distribution network goes to the middleman. [passage omitted]

What are the plans to prevent the adverse effect that might be created following the pricing of commodities in view of the fact that the objective is to protect the consumer? Do you accept this fact? If it is true, what do you prescribe as a remedy?

[Rafsanjani] In the program that we carry out, we hope such occurrences that you have referred to become very rare. If we see such cases we will deal with them seriously. Our assumption is that the pricing, which has been carried out, is in the interest of the producers with a relatively good profit to them. Therefore, the producer does not lose out in the process. When goods are in great supply there is no need to see a black market, because the supply is sufficient. For example sugar or detergents and others which are in great supply, it is only possible that a number of individuals buy and hoard them and then creat an artificial shortage of supply. we will deal with them decisively. [passage omitted]

Yes I know there are cases to which you referred where there is a gap. But it is the beginning of our program and we will gradually resolve these cases. There are cases where there is a real shortage of commodities. There are cases. Our general policy in the past has been not to go and price those commodities which are in short supply to face a problem. Maybe some exceptional cases have occurred about which we should think to remove the problem.

The figures that you quoted do not occur — this difference of 100 billion tomans. The consumer benefits directly from the commodities to which you referred. For example the factories which need steel sheets come and purchase directly from the steel mill. They themselves are consumers. If someone somewhere is unable to purchase something and goes and buys it in open market from a hoarder, such cares are rare occasions. [passage omitted]

[Mohajeri] If you wish we could talk about a topical issue, which also has economic aspects, that is the United States, which imposed sanctions, or rather has declared that it will impose sanctions. there are two or three sides to this, propaganda and political. Fortunately, so far those aspects of it have been in favor of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those countries which usually follow the United States in various global issues have not followed the United States in this matter. However, a point which is very important and should be raised here is that, in any case, this embargo may have economic effects on our country. It would be really apt for you to give some explanation about the matter, for the people to know to what extent it may have an effect. Because it would be good for the people to be prepared. If you deem fit, please comment.

[Do'a'i] I have prepared a question which also relates to those issues, that is Clinton's recent policy of economic blockade, which has been almost defeated. This is thanks to God's blessings and the wise policies of the government and your leadership, which made plans for self-sufficiency and infrastructural work. [passage omitted]

Did you foresee a day when they would impose economic sanctions on us. I remember in one of your Friday prayers sermons you said: We have fooled the west. We have acted in such a way that they are not aware of the depth of our plans. They suddenly woke up and saw that we are in a position about which they can do nothing. Thus their plots were foiled.

[Mohajeri] I think you will be obliged to answer two questions about the same subject. This was not my point. I say that it [the economic embargo] has an effect. We have to tell the people about that effect. It would be

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fitting for us to clarify the matter now. I accept his point, but there are two issues here.

[Rafsanjani] You see, one cannot really say that if a big power like the United States were to decide to put pressure on a government and a nation it would be totally ineffective. It would have some effect. However, we have to evaluate and see what sort of effects it will have, how much it is in U.S. favor and how much it is in ours. one could discuss it at length. We cannot do so in a meeting like this.

I think that if the United States refrains from selling goods to us, nothing significant will happen. We did not wish to refute the incorrect figures which were occasionally published in the newspapers, saying we purchased billions of dollars worth of goods [from the United States] every year. We saw that it was beneficial to our global policy to make western countries wonder why the United States, which keeps telling them not to have relations [with Iran], has so much dealing [with Iran]. Why should we deny it? The last figure they gave, they said $300 million worth of goods were imported [from the United States] per year. And those were things that were needed in the country and so were imported.

The Americans bought a lot of oil from us, about $3 to $4 billion worth. If conditions stay as they are, that will not have much of an effect, because it needs consumers. When the Americans were buying it they did not use it themselves, they gave it to consumers. Oil resources are limited to what is being produced in the world. If the United States does not buy from us it has to go and buy from elsewhere. Then there will be a gap somewhere else and we will fill it. There might be some shift. Of course, it has not happened yet. Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i [oil minister] was saying that U.S. companies are still under pressure to buy, and as a precaution we will limit it so that our plans are not too severely affected.

Another point which could have had a lot of effect was for other countries to follow the United States. If all of U.S. allies were to repeat Iraq's example it would have an effect. We could not say it would be ineffectual; but not like Iraq. Even if such a case were to happen, today's Iran is no longer vulnerable.

Fortunately that did not happen. Something strange happened. Up to today the United States has found no ally in the world except Israel. They said some things about the Japanese [joining the embargo], and they [Japan] declared their stance clearly. They said the same about a European country, and they also declared their stance. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Apparently that view is not commonly shared in the United States.

[Rafsanjani] Yes, in the United States, not the government, but those who have sense know that it is not the right thing. On the whole and up to this moment, it has not been successful. Of course, he will not give up, he will continue to exert pressure and he has certain devices for doing this. So, this too did not happen. If I were to imagine the worst scenario and suppose that some people may wish to cooperate with him in not buying [Iranian] oil and not selling goods — if this is what it is about since this is what they mention when they speak about the sanctions — well, nothing much will happen in Iran.

I heard that in one of these European circles — I was informed about this by a source from within that circle which was engaged in a heated debate — it was said: Iran had been smart to forward-sell its oil, take our dollars and invest them in factories and such things. But we are the creditors; how can we both impose economic sanctions [against Iran] and collect what is owed to us at the same time? [passage omitted]

Our country is now working well with $7-$8 billion. Last year we spent $9 billion [all figures as heard] and our industrial production, according to [Industries Minister] Mr. Ne'matzadeh's report for a 10-month period, was very much higher than the previous year and the rest of the year has yet to be calculated. Our exports are also more, that is, we produced and exported. We also stocked up as a precaution, for the future, and we do have extra stock now. I think that even if the Americans find collaborators, nothing too serious will happen. Of course, it is not that nothing will happen. some things will become difficult, some operations may have to be closed down but other works could replace these and reconstruction could become even better. It is the psychological dimensions of this affair which is important. You can see for yourselves that even in these two to three days when they started this uproar, and in spite of the fact that they have not received any positive response, we see some of the impact sometimes in the foreign exchange market or similar places. But then, it is their own agents — some of the dealers do carry forward these policies and the effects are then seen on economic activities here. Well, one cannot expect everyone to analyze things correctly.

One of the most important duties you have is really to eliminate the roots of the society's vulnerability. I think that one of reasons why the Americans have done this — and I stand by this if you gentlemen are prepared to discuss it — are these talks and discussions which exaggerate existing difficulties. This has become the order of the day or almost like a slogan. Newspapers and other organs keep shouting that people have this or that problem. And this has made those at the other

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end think that Iran needs to be pushed a bit until it surrenders. If they really knew what our society was about, they would not take such a blind action.

So, there are definitely some psychological effects and if there is an alliance this would create problems for us. But, for the time being, this alliance has not and will not be feasible. If the United States seriously implements the sanctions it has set down, on its own, this will not have any real, physical impact on us because we have our markets and sources for purchasing anything we need. From the political standpoint, it is also in our favor because the aspiration of our nation in their revolution was to struggle against arrogance. So this is a new arena which raises people's revolutionary zeal.

[Mohajeri] Your analysis is timely and correct. The United States has looked at the country and believed that there may be some grievances and that it is a good time to take this action. But I think that in order to eliminate the psychological impact which the United States expects to bring about, and in addition to what is being done to resist the U.S. psychological war, the government should perhaps also tighten its supervision over the issue of distribution and also prevent surcharging. After all, these economic terrorists practice this surcharging in an effort to ensure that the United States achieves its goals. The government has to intensify its measures to defeat this move because this is very effective, I think.

[Rafsanjani] The government will never hesitate from taking more intensive action if there is a need. We will increase monitoring if we think it is necessary to do so at any point.

[Mohajeri] Well, with reference to what you yourself just said, do you think there is a need now?

[Rafsanjani] If the serious program that we have is implemented well, nothing new will happen.

[Verdinezhad] It seems as if Mr. Do'a'i's question was quashed!

[Rafsanjani] Yes, that part of the question.

[Do'a'i] In any case, my concern was to ask whether I am right in believing that before [President] Clinton could think properly about his plans, you had already taken your decisions. That is, that you really quashed his plots in view of these fundamental changes which have taken place in the country.

[Rafsanjani] Mr. Do'a'i has really come to my help with his comment on this issue because this is really true. All the work that has been done inside the country has really made it difficult to impose sanctions against us. There was a time when, had they taken this decision, we would not have been able to build a cement plant any more, or a petrochemical plant, or to extend our communications system. But these tasks have been achieved already. We could have had more electricity power failures which is one of our problems. In fact, Mr. Zangeneh [energy minister] came to see me today and said that we have 21,000 mw of installed power whereas we consume 14,000 mw of power during peak times. We are also in the process of constructing several important plants. The country's expertise has grown so much that we are able to undertake many tasks domestically.

[Do'a'i] One of the achievements is the Bandar-e 'Abbas-Baft railway project which can be compared to Egypt's Aswan Dam because of its grandeur.

[Rafsanjani] In any case, if the world wishes to link the north and south of Iran — which is what is needed by these new states, new markets and the situation brought about by the great victory of democracy in the world — it cannot live without Iran.

[Karbaschi, turning to Shari'atmadari] You had a third point to make.

[Shari'atmadari] Yes, if I may. Of course, your excellency has answered this question in your recent speeche- However, there is another point, all the evidence shows that owing to the position the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved during this period, it cannot be confronted or boycotted so easily. Considering our advantages and since the root of our clash with the United States goes back to nature of both sides — we rely on Islam and they fight blasphemy and oppression, rather we fight oppression and they are oppressors — my question is that if, in the present circumstances, this plan fails — and all evidence points to that — and they, not obviously, but in practice, gradually abandon their stance, will we shun them? That is, if they were to bring their trade relations [with Iran] back to the level it was before the embargo, will we oppose it?

[Rafsanjani] You see, the imam said that as long as the United States retains its satanic nature our stance will be unchanged. The esteemed leader [Khamene'i] said that the United States dislikes our revolution and therefore it is hostile and aggressive, and we abominate that nature of the United States. If the United States could prove that it has no ill-intentions and has goodwill — like other countries such as Germany, France, and Japan — and behaves moderately what you say would apply; we would talk about it then. Thus far we have not seen any goodwill from the United States. That is the reply I have always given to domestic and foreign correspondents.

[Shari'atmadari] What it has done here doubly proves that it has no goodwill.

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[Rafsanjani] That is a sign of its strange attitude toward us.

[Mohajeri] The effects of Israel's policies are mostly observed from the White House.

[Rafsanjani] It is one of the factors. That is, one of the bases of U.S. policy, particularly the Democrats, is the issue of Israel, and that has a great of effect on their decisions.

[Shari'atmadari] I beg your pardon, my question was that if as evidence shows they fail in their plan, if they come back, either secretly or in the open, and ask to maintain the same level of trade, would it not be better for us to refuse them?

[Rafsanjani] Our policy has thus far not been to tie our hands behind our backs. It is one of America's mistakes to tie its hands behind its back and pass such laws. Our hands are free. If it were in our interest we would take advantage, if it were not we would not take advantage.

[Shari'atmadari] Would this not be considered as tit-for-tat?

[Rafsanj. ni] It is not a question of spite; we consider the interests of the system; we have to see where our interests lie. At every juncture we will assess the situation where it needs to be assessed. and decide.

[Verdinezhad] Here, please allow to mention another point, Mr. Hashemi. Since our revolution and the establishment of the Islamic regime, we have achieved our political independence with heavy cost. Naturally the political independence deprived us of many resources which had been available for the Third World countries including Iran, such as advisory, political, and technical assistance, as well as know-how which had been rendered to us and was continuing. We did not make use of this assistance [after the revolution], thanks be to God, and were able to run the country in a suitable manner. Thanks be to God, we have been successful.

Naturally when work is carried out within such a framework, in addition to all the positive points that it brings about for the country and people, occasionally in the process of the work some mistakes might have occurred due to the fact that we did not have sufficient and long experiences, we were unable to use other resources and the assistance of the other countries were also unavailable. As you are an experienced and great official of the country who is among the architects of the country's policies in all the spheres, I want to know in your view to what extent mistakes have existed and possibly if a mistake is noticed in our work how can we correct it. How serious should we take them [mistakes] in fact?

[Rafsanjani]: Naturally the process has not been without any mistakes. But if you expect me to come here and count our past mistakes...[sentence unfinished]

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] We were not supposed to talk about this. [laughter]

[Rafsanjani] Naturally in the long movement of the past 16 years we did not carry out work without mistakes, we had some mistakes as well. There are cases in my mind at this moment but it is too early to mention these issues. Let us write them when we decided to write the history then we should talk about these issues.

[Mohajeri] Now that you have referred to the issue of history, it reminded me of another question which concerns your own memory of your struggle and activities. You are one of the outstanding personalities of the revolution. Your struggle was very strong and you were in the vanguard. You were in prison and in exile. It is very interesting to the people to know whether you have assembled your memoirs or not. Will they be published? Also your memoirs of the current period. You have referred to some of them and said it is too early to talk about them. However, the people are interested to know about them. Could you please say something on the subject.

[Rafsanjani] I began gathering my memoirs on the current period a year after the revolution, mainly the important points of them. Recently our Mohsen [Rafsanjani's son] decided to compile them and make them ready if we ever decide to publish them. When I go through them now, I believe many parts of them are still not suitable for publication. If we decide to amend them that will make the memoirs imperfect and it is not fair, but if we publish some parts of them they might have negative effect. We have not decided on publishing these memoirs as yet.

We do not have any problem about [publishing] the memoirs belonging to the past [pre-revolution period]. Some journalists, for example from the History Foundation came and interviewed me. I told them whatever I remembered. When we decide to write the history of revolution these things will be written.

[Mohajeri] Now we are close to the anniversary of a failed attempt on your life, in which fortunately you were not harmed. Now this is a good opportunity for us if you could tell us one of your memories in this respect. [passage omitted]

[Verninezhad] Another question which people may find interesting is whether you have any time left to spend with your children and grandchildren considering your heavy schedule — they are naturally fond of you and expect some attention. Do you find the time for this?

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[Rafsanjani] No, I cannot really help a lot because I get out of the house early in the morning and usually return at the end of the evening. Unless it is a holiday or something when we find the opportunity to go out somewhere with the children. This happens several times a year — or, we may see each other over lunch in each others' houses. I try to use these moments to attend to them, their studies, their behavior and to talk to them. However, I cannot say that I attend to my children to the extend that other people do.

[Mohajeri] In the discussions we have had in this interview, your Excellency's compassion and kindness were emphasized and you yourself would accept that you are a compassionate person. Well, on the one hand you undertake many infrastructural tasks in this country — and you are successful — and on the other, people have certain difficulties which you hear about. So there are two important issues involved here: on the one hand your compassion compels you to do something about these difficulties and respond to the problems, and, on the other, you cannot abandon the huge responsibilities you feel — that is, the continuation of infrastructural development. How do you reconcile these two pressures?

[Rafsanjani] Yes, it is like a person whose child asks for something but he or she prefers to spend the money on the child's education or for the child's future. It feels something like this. [passage omitted] I have to take the harder option often and there are some bitter moments involved in this, yet the sweetness of constructive and far-sighted works outweighs the bitterness. After all, rationality must be victorious over emotions in certain cases. [passage omitted]

[Verdinezhad] A point I would like to make is about the people's subsistence. God willing, the Refah [welfare] chain of shops [will solve] the problems of buying and such like. This was a matter which your excellency has followed up seriously. And one of the shops has opened. However, there was a view that it might be necessary for the government to subsidize such shops. How do you view this? And will this policy continue? In what form will it be? What are the press and the public expected to do to make them successful? What will be the outcome?

[Rafsanjani] We have talked about this before. First, we do not subsidize those shops in any way. Because they can be, and are, profitable by themselves. [passage omitted]

This is a task purely to reduce the number of the middlemen and [for suppliers] to be satisfied with a reasonable profit. The implementation of those policies has started. [passage omitted]

In my opinion it is an extremely serious matter. Our distribution network has to be eventually reformed. Of course we would prefer that the private sector would get together and open such shops. And we would help them so that part of this traditional network becomes a modern network. Whereever it [a modern distribution network] has existed in the world the people have prospered.

[Do'a'i] I would like to raise a question on foreign policy matters. As you know, new poles of alliance are taking shape in the world. Russia is regaining its power and is stabilized. The Americans are very unhappy about this. The European Union is also growing, so are China and Japan, etc. Is it not time to set up an Islamic union and a new Islamic pole? Do you have any plans in this field? Egypt is one of the most important Islamic countries. What are the plans for relations with Egypt?

[Rafsanjani] This was the objective when the [Organization of the] Islamic Conference [OIC] was set up. But, today in practice we see that due to the conditions prevailing in the Islamic world and the Islamic countries' dependence on various states, it is very difficult to create a united power. However, this [OIC] is the foundation of a movement.

On the issue of ties with Egypt. Our separation from Egypt began when it became in the vanguard of breaking the Palestine issue. The Camp David developments were very bitter. They [the Egyptians] have recently made new remarks. If they move toward a good path, I think Iran would accept the importance of Egypt as a great Islamic country with an ancient civilization and with a record of its people's struggle. We hope the problem in Egypt will be resolved so that we can work with them.

[Mohajeri] So there has been nothing new. They said something about the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. But they either became silent or said something else to the contrary. It seems they were only playing a game. Apparently the United States pointed a finger and they became silent. You have always said that in accordance with our foreign policy, the Egyptian government can approach us at the same rate as it distances itself from Israel. It seems Egypt is maintaining friendly ties with Israel and nothing new has happened?

[Rafsanjani] Yes, you said it. Ultimately the issue can be summarized by saying that if it [Egypt] were to reconsider its past policy, Iran would welcome the decision.

[Shari'atmadari] I think your excellency means under the existing circumstances and as the horizon ahead of us indicates, Egypt is coming closer to Israel. Do you

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mean that for the time being and under the existing horizon there is no possibility of resuming ties [with Egypt]?

[Rafsanjani] It is possible that the policy [of peace with Israel] might reach an impasse. We cannot make a quick judgement now. We have to wait and see. We can see that they are facing some serious problems. We think one of the reasons for the U.S. negative move against us is that the course [of peace talks] is facing a problem there.

[Mohajeri] You mean that there is some problem on the course of compromise between the Arabs and Israel?

[Rafsanjani] Well, yes.

[Mohajeri] But the Egyptian government is the vanguard of that policy?

[Rafsanjani] Well, if the essence of the policy faces some obstacles, naturally the policy of the vanguard will change too.

[Mohajeri] If that were to happen, they might change a pawn in Egypt? They might tell those in power that you...

[Rafsanjani, interrupting] Mr. Mohajeri always makes negative assumptions. [laughter]

[Do'a'i] I would like to ask you another question. It seems that our foreign policy is based on regional issues. Whereas after the Cold War, political analysts lay greater emphasis on international issues. Do you think concentration on regional policies would reduce our ability to maneuver at the international level?

[Rafsanjani] I do not accept that our policies are confined to regional matters. We have relations with such countries as China, Germany, and other countries. The repercussions of the recent U.S. decision in the world demonstrated that our policy is not confined to the region. Of course it is natural to give some priority to issues of the region because of its close proximity.

[Verdinezhad] When you refer to the region, do you mean Asia and the Central Asian countries?

[Rafsanjani] To us the region has several meanings now. The Middle East is one region, members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, form another region, Caspian Sea littoral states, the Persian Gulf area and the Islamic world are all different regions. There is also the Third World. We give different priorities to each of these regions. But we never forget our international policies. [passage omitted]

[Do'a'i] It seems the discussion has taken much of your time. The press issues are never ending. We made you tired. I think we should end this session.

[Verdinezhad] If you have a happy message for the press, let us know?

[Rafsanjani] I am satisfied with the good meeting we held together. It was a friendly meeting, during which the country's important issues were raised. I consider it my duty to see that the press is given reasonable support. However, I do not wish to see the press made too dependent. For the sake of their own livelihood, it would be highly in its long-term interest to remain independent. We would offer the same support as we are giving to other services. Despite the fact that sometimes we find it difficult to provide the foreign currency requirements of the press, we will do our best to make certain that you will not have to face unbearable problems. We hope to resolve the problem of paper shortage so that you can work with peace of mind in the future.

[Do'a'i] I would like to ask your permission to allow us to meet you from time to time to hold similar meetings.

[Rafsanjani] I welcome the proposal. Of course during today's session the representatives of the other dailies were absent. The reason was that the television center thought we could not increase the number of participants. Next time we hope the other gentlemen will attend the meeting too. Good luck to you all.

[Do'a'i] Thank you very much anyway.

*Non-Oil Exports Increased 10% Last Year

95LA0188P Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Mar 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The value of Iran's non-oil exports for 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] is estimated at about $4.2 to $4.5 billion, an increase of about 10 percent compared to 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994].

Hamidollah 'Asgaroladi, deputy director of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Mines, gave an interview to IRNA's correspondent. He said: To have growth in exports this year, we must change from traditional to scientific methods.

He discussed the need for research and for the permanent involvement in the international markets of responsible organizations such as the Iran Export Development Center, Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative offices outside the country, and the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Mines.

He said: The government must encourage exports. He recommended that means be provided to enable exporters to obtain credit documents that will permit them to do consignment transactions with foreign buyers, where 70 to 80 percent of their credit documents will

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be borrowed from banks. This would strengthen the financial foundation for exporters without the government taking on a big risk.

He explained: The obstacle to non-oil exports is not just ports, which for annual exports operate at a weakness of $5 billion in goods. There is also the shortage of expert manpower in the area of exports in organizations such as the Central Bank, the banking system, Iran Customs, the Ports and Shipping Organization, and the Ministry of Commerce. This must be corrected and the government must look into these matters.

The deputy director of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Mines said: The value of non-oil exports has grown from about $300 million to more than $4 billion per year. At this rate, in the Second Five-Year Plan we will be able to double the present level of our exports.

Asgaroladi discussed the reason for the recent fluctuations on the free foreign exchange market. He said: The motivation for buying dollars is not to transfer capital but to smuggle goods into the country, and this also has an undesirable effect on exports.

He said: To get growth in non-oil exports, it is necessary that exporters be able to rotate their capital three or four times per year. This will be possible only with better banking, customs, and shipping services.

He said: We are now at a stage where the increase in non-oil exports from $5 to $10 billion carries many dangers.

The deputy director of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Mines explained: The value of the rial against the dollar must be set, and it must not fluctuate more than 4 or 5 percent a year.

*Decision Made To Fix Prices, Ban Export of Materials

95LA0188A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Mar 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Market Regulation Support Staff has made decisions about the procurement of dozens of basic public goods in 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] and on not having major price changes on the goods subject to market regulation and government penalties in the new year.

At its final meeting last year this staff announced: As of the beginning of the new year, dozens of needed and basic goods subject to market regulation and government penalties will be made available to the public in accordance with market regulation programs.

The Public Relations Office of the Office of the President of the Republic reports that as this meeting continued the report was given to the staff members from the Market Regulation Support Staff concerning the extent of the effect of fuel price increases and increased wages on the prices of some goods and services.

Based on this report, the price of fuel had an average effect of less than 4 percent on the price of goods and services, and the effect of wage increases was appropriate for the labor needs of the producing units.

At this meeting, the Central Bank reported on the measures it has taken in recent months to obtain the credits needed to procure basic goods needed by the public and also to obtain credits for next year.

At this meeting it was decided to stop exports in 1374 of all petrochemical products and various metals, including steel, copper, aluminum, synthetic fibers, and other raw materials needed by domestic industries. Authorization will be given to export these items by the Ministry of Commerce but only in the event that producers saturate their markets.

Based on this report, decisions were also made with regard to the 1374 prices of petrochemical products, steel, copper, and aluminum. It was decided that the base price of the aforementioned goods will be based on the prices for 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], adding in a percentage for the added costs of fuel and wages. This percentage will average less than 8 percent.

Pakistan

IJT Members Storm U.S. Consulate in Lahore

BK1605065295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 May 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Islami Jamiat Talba [IJT] activists gave a surprise to the city administration when over 100 of them stormed American Consulate after holding a peaceful rally and demonstration at the Mall against the burning of the shrine at Charar Sharif. Except half a dozen policemen on routine duty no security arrangement had been made to protect the Consulate, so secret was the IJT plan.

The activists on board four buses set off for the Consulate from Faisal Chowk after the demonstration against India. However, none of the boys and the journalists, who were asked by some of the leaders to accompany them, knew about their destination. Police at Faisal Chowk went away to their stations on seeing the activists leaving the venue of the demonstration.

At the Consulate the activists hurled bricks, damaging the large security glass besides the main gate, and crackers inside the premises. None of the crackers, however,

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exploded inside due to substandard fuses. Several crackers exploded outside the Consulate. Another item on the agenda of three minutes attack was burning of American flag outside the Consulate. After that the activists ran to the buses and fled away.

Earlier, the rally started from Masjid-e-Shuhuda and reached Faisal Chowk where IJT Punjab General Secretary Zikrullah Mujahid addressed the participants. On its way to Faisal Chowk the activists chanted slogans against India and the barbaric action of Indian troops at Charar Sharif. The demonstrators were carrying placards and banners inscribed with anti-India slogans.

At Faisal Chowk the demonstrators burnt several Indian flags and exploded crackers. Addressing the activists IJT Punjab General Secretary demanded that the Prime Minister should sever diplomatic ties with India 'instead of shedding crocodile's tears at the tragedy of Charar Sharif.'

He called upon the people at large to boycott the Indian cultural invasion through videos and satellite dish antennas.

Daily Considers Reduced U.S. Presence in Karachi

BK1605085495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 May 95 p 8

[Article by S. Tallat: "No Friendships, Only Interests"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States decision to reduce the strength of its counseller mission in Karachi needs to be assessed in terms of its overall relevance within the canvas of American policy towards the region. Politics is the art of understanding interests and assessing the power to be employed in the achievement of these interests. Much against the popular perception that the United States has some kind of a long-term agenda in Karachi, the withdrawal of the visa section from Karachi will leave the US Consulate without its most potent public relations tool — the visa — in Pakistan's most populous city. Was the murder of two American citizens reason enough for such a decision? Does US policy really stop operations in deference to terrorist attacks?

The United States policy-planners are unlikely to be governed by such isolated occurrences. If they were really looking at Pakistan as a long-term business interest, this decision would accomplish next to nothing — it would rather negatively affect business prospects for both Pakistani and American entrepreneurs. In other words, this decision has probably been taken as a continuation of a larger policy framework that has already excluded Pakistan as a viable or a stable economic entity. Obviously in the American perspective, the Pakistani picture of corruption, lack of human resources and absence of any natural wealth presents little option. Probably from the United States perspective, prospects of a long- term business relationship with Pakistan do not exist and the United States government also feels that business interests in Karachi have at present virtually no input the Pakistani state's policy determination. In keeping with these ground realities, the decision of not keeping a liaison with these interests and giving a back seat becomes understandable.

What does, however, become intriguing is the set of factors that form the current basis of the continued US interest in the region. Apart from economics, the American state as a player in the international arena determines its policy according to security concerns. After the cold war our self-bestowed laurels for being a faithful ally apart, what can be the basis of continued US security concerns in the region?

At present in stark terms the region includes three nuclear or potentially nuclear states, namely, China, India and Pakistan. West of Pakistan lies Iran which is the only state that has a reasonable population to resources ratio. Among all these states Pakistan is the only state whose decision-making structure is heavily influenced by the United States; all the others have due to their own internal dynamics, political governments that have their own perceptions of their national interest. Both China and India are seeing an increasing multinational corporate presence as they offer huge markets to corporations that need constant growth. The human resource development and transfer of technology that these countries are craving as a quid pro quo for opening up are also rapidly creating visible income disparities that are renecessitating strong governmental interference in the economic sectors to maintain societal balances. The resultant taxes and tariffs tend to hurt the investing entrepreneur, moreover, government support to indigenous industry and protection continues, forcing international governments to push for more favourable terms of trade. During this whole exercise, labour — the surplus commodity — in China, India and Pakistan is not allowed freedom of movement like other goods. This will continue to keep a portion of the world poorer. The elites in these countries where economic emancipation is following the international prescription are increasingly becoming like slave drivers trying to keep their populations in check to conform to international trade parameters. If national patience runs out before any visible economic headway is made, the traditional historical effort for more resources would force India and China to look outward. After all both these countries can see the huge untouched wilds of

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Canada and the Australian continent with only twenty million people reaping its fruit. For American policy-makers, the emergence of a regional redefinition of traditional alliances with Iran, India and China drawing closer on the one-point agenda of regional cooperation and national interest would very well have indicated the future lines of international conflict. Given this situation due to its regional dispute with India, Pakistan becomes the odd man out and the only extra-regional player with enough power to be a factor.

No wonder then, the Kashmir pot is being kept on the boil with a characteristic two-pronged policy that periodically recognises Kashmir as a dispute but does not attempt to even articulate an allied consensus on the issue. While Pakistan is economically squeezed, talk of a one-time waiver on military hardware goes on. The idea seems to be to keep Pakistan policy forcibly held victim to an extra-regional compulsion. At the same time, the realisation that Pakistan does not have the elite willing or competent enough to push Pakistan along the path of maximum business opportunity and a partnership in an international economy not to mention its terribly- depleted state of human resources, has convinced the US policy architects that Pakistan's check on India cannot be long term The resultant policy that would be likely to emerge would probably have two objectives. Bring India to heel as a runaway independent regional power and ensure end of the Islamic bomb spectre

A policy that could ensure this is a limited nuclear conflict between the two states. India at the end of the conflict would be a much more malleable version of Iraq, requiring a lot of reconstruction from the West while Pakistan would be left a moth- eaten toothless Kuwait. With a strong post-war United States influence in India, a palpable check over China would come into place and an antagonistic anti-Western regional alliance will be short-circuited. Whether this policy can be workable or not remains to be seen and whether Indian or Pakistani policy-planners can retreat from the doomsday scenario is still an open question.

Bhutto Addresses Officials on Terrorism, Kashmir

BK1505134495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad today, a meeting of the parliamentary party of the senators from Pakistan People's Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo group, and other allied parties was held. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Addressing the meeting, the prime minister said that her government was making every endeavor to eradicate terrorism from the society. She said the ordinance Number 39, which has been promulgated by the president, is meant for abnormal situation which has been specified within this law. She said under the latest legislation, efforts are being made to apprehend terrorists and bring them to justice without giving them any facility of bail.

The meeting took the stock of situation in held-Kashmir following the latest atrocities committed by the Indian Army and other security forces, particularly the desecration of dargah [shrine] Nuruddin Wali in Charar Sharif. It was decided that the government will send delegations comprising of parliamentarians, lawyers, intellectuals and ulemas [religious scholars] to Islamic capitals and other countries to convey Pakistan's concern over the situation in Indian-held Kashmir. The meeting was attended by several federal ministers.

Cabinet Urges Global Notice of Indian 'Genocide'

BK1505155895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A special session of the Azad Kashmir cabinet was held in Muzaffarabad today. The session fully supported Pakistan's appeal to observe a protest day on 19 May in all of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir to protest the desecration of the shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali and adjacent mosque in the Charar Sharif town of occupied Kashmir. Azad Kashmir Information Minister Shah Ghulam Qadir told reporters after the cabinet meeting that the meeting adopted a resolution strongly condemning the destruction of the shrine and the mosque by Indian forces. The resolution expressed satisfaction over the convening of a meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir and appealed to the Islamic countries to sever trade ties with India. It also appealed to the United Nations, OIC, and international human rights organizations to take immediate notice of the ongoing genocide of the Kashmiris by the Indian forces and continued threats of war by the Indian authorities.

Tensions Blamed on Indian 'Atrocities,' Military

BK1605045795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said atrocities by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, 20 percent increase in the Indian defense budget, and deployment of Prithvi missile have heightened tension in this region. He made these observations while winding up debate in the Senate on a resolution condemning inhuman desecration and destruction of the Charar Sharif shrine. He said it

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is incumbent upon India to lower this tension for peace and stability in the region. However, before that India should improve the human rights record in the occupied Kashmir, repeal TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act] laws, lower the troops concentration for creating conducive atmosphere in which Pakistan could join into a meaningful dialogue with India for the solution of all disputes including the core dispute on the Kashmir issue.

Referring to Charar Sharif tragedy, he strongly refuted the Indian prime minister's allegations and said Mr. Rao's claims have been nullified by the eye witness accounts reported by in the Indian press. The Indian daily STATESMAN in its report has stated that an Indian military helicopter sprayed large quantity of powder all over the shrine before its forces started firing mortars over the holy premises.

The foreign minister said the government has decided to brief international community on the situation created following the Charar Sharif tragedy. He said the prime minister has already written to world leaders on the latest situation prevailing in occupied Kashmir. Referring specially to the statement of the Indian minister for internal security, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali said that any talk of war cannot intimidate or cow down Pakistan as its people and armed forces are fully capable to defend their homeland against any foreign aggression.

Later, the Senate passed the resolution unanimously condemning the desecration and destruction of the holy shrine. Earlier, the leader of the house, Malik Mohammad Qasim, said tabling of a joint resolution is a loud and clear message to India that the people of Pakistan are united on the core issue of Kashmir. The leader of the opposition, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haque, termed the unanimous passage of the resolution as a landmark and said their sole aim was to demonstrate to the world that there is a complete unanimity on the issues of national importance between the government and the opposition.

The House also offered fateha [prayers] for the souls of those who laid down their lives at Charar Sharif. The House will meet at 1700 this afternoon.

Sri Lanka

President Views Peace Process, India Role

BK0905012895 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 May 95 pp 52-58

["Excerpts" of "exclusive" interview with President Chandrika Kumaratunga by INDIA TODAY Senior Editor Shekar Gupta in Colombo; date not given — first five paragraphs are INDIA TODAY introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]*In one way, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's ascent to power in Sri Lanka conforms cruelly to the subcontinent's paradoxical history of flourishing democracies amid assassinations and the trend of an orphan or a widow taking over the mantle of a slain leader. Chandrika's father, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, was assassinated in 1959 when he was President, her film star-politician husband Vijaya Kumaratunga in 1988. Her mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, was disenfranchised and hounded for more than a decade after she lost power.*

In another way, the 50-year-old Chandrika stands apart from the other legatees of the subcontinent's violent democracies. She sought, and secured, a mandate for peace with the majority Sinhalas' ethnic rivals, the Tamils. This was the centrepiece of her election campaign and it brought her a landslide 62.5 percent vote. Never in the history of the region has a leader or a political party used peace as an election plank in such a manner — rarely indeed in modern world history, except perhaps the ruling coalition in Israel, which sought a vote for rapprochement with the Palestinians. She was brought up in Europe in the heady days of the students' movement and liberalism, traits that she imbibed first at the Sorbonne, where she studied, and later at London where, hiding from the violent, rightwing Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) activists who had assassinated her husband, she worked on a PhD thesis on political violence in Sri Lanka. She had friends in Amnesty International and other civil-rights groups in Britain and many of her Sinhala critics say that, by the time she came to power, she had begun to identify so strongly with the Tamil cause as to have become "dangerously equidistant" on the issue. Chandrika, however, says she was only trying to emphasise that hers was the Government of "all of Sri Lanka".

But survival is not easy for peacemakers on Sri Lanka's ethnic battleground as was proved by the events of last week, much to Chandrika's bitterness. The truce between her government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] collapsed when the Tigers sank two navy gunboats (a fourth of the Sri Lankan navy's entire gunboat fleet), wiped out a military camp killing at least 30 soldiers, and destroyed a police post killing another six. With the gloves off, Chandrika, too, was left with no option but to send her army into battle.

The resumption of war has brought out of the woodwork in Colombo all the sceptics of the I-told-you-so school, many of whom had dismissed Chandrika as no more than a "bleeding-heart liberal wishfully employing a

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Sorbonne style in Sri Lanka". She vehemently contests that description, but deep down, the resumed fighting has shattered many of her beliefs, hopes and, most of all, the ambition to grow into a figure who would be remembered by history for settling with peace what apparently stronger men, and armies, had failed to sort out with arms.

Some of that bitterness and disappointment marked the exclusive two-hour interview with Senior Editor Shekhar Gupta at Temple Trees, her official residence in Colombo. Excerpts:

Q. How do you look back on your six months as President?

A. To be very honest, we can be happy about what we have achieved. We got a clear mandate to repair democracy, which had been very severely damaged. We have restored the right of speech, freedom and the right to not be killed. Despite grave continuing threats and pressures, we have not misused the vast emergency powers.

Q. But surely the security situation has not improved and you might have to fall back on those powers soon.

A. We could have fallen back on that mode. There were problems as soon as we took over. The UNP (United National Party) and the JVP caused strikes not just in the public sector but also in crucial areas of foreign investment. It was very easy to go back to emergency regulations and arrest everybody. We used the method of dialogue. Even with the Tigers, our approach has been very different. We have treated them as equals. We hoped that the human aspect would prevail. Yet we did this without betraying the armed forces as the previous government had done. They would talk to the Tigers, give them arms and money, and tell the armed forces to fight them.

Q. Doesn't it now look as if there was, some wishful thinking behind your approach?

A. No. We had a mandate for peace — 62.5 per cent of the people had asked us to bring peace. So we negotiated without any preconditions. We did not ask them to lay down arms. The Indian Government insists on certain conditions before talking to such groups. Benazir Bhutto has also said that she will not talk to (extremists) unless they lay down arms.

Q. Do you agree with your critics who call you a bleeding-heart liberal who miscalculated?

A. We had no choice. We had to fulfil the mandate. We did our best to alleviate the problems of the Tamil people. We lifted the blockade, we even conceded the demand for lifting the ban on the supply of fertilisers, wires and batteries. In the hands of skilful people, you know, that adds up to an explosive device. We lifted the fishing ban totally while knowing that this would be very bad for our navy.

Q. But didn't the navy pay the price for this ultimately, with the Tigers sinking two gunboats last week?

A. The two boats that were sunk were supposed to have been secure in the harbour. I have set up a court of inquiry to go into this. It looks as if there was quite a lot of negligence on the navy's part.

Q. Do you now regret conceding so much?

A. No. We had to do all this even when the Tigers did not reciprocate. We sent shiploads of free rations and fuel for the people of Jaffna which the LTTE grabbed.

Q. How bitter are you?

A. Not at all. I did not expect anything else from the Tigers. It is the most ruthless and most effective guerrilla organisation in the 20th century. But that doesn't mean we're saying that they are useless, so we must kill them. So we tried our best, keeping in mind that we were dealing with a merciless megalomaniac who has killed every single person who was opposed to him. Even the way he decided in cold blood to kill Rajiv Gandhi. And they were nurtured, fed, financed and armed by Mrs Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. He just decided to bump Rajiv off and I was also personally very much aware that if he did not get from me what he wanted, I would be the first person on his list. On that count now there is no doubt.

Q. In hindsight, would you have handled the LTTE differently?

A. I have been asking myself this question last week. I cannot think of any other way I would have handled it given the commitments we had taken on. Except, perhaps, on one score which I cannot mention yet. But, politically, it would have not been possible to change that either, because we have an electorate in the south. We are not dealing only with Prabhakaran and the LTTE.

Q. When you started the peace process, a lot of people said the Government doesn't know who it's dealing with. That it's going out on a limb. Do you think they were right?

A. No, because every other kind of thing that was used had not succeeded. There is no other way possible apart from going for an all-out war against the LTTE with an army and armed forces which were not the best

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trained and not at all equipped. For 11 years, the past government had waged a war and the armed forces were very badly equipped. And the Tigers know all the details about this. You know, as far as military equipment goes, I don't know what happened to all the money that was spent, the billions and billions of dollars. A lot of it evidently hadn't gone into buying what was necessary.

Q. So you had no option.

A. We were certainly not going to go into an all-out war. Second, even if we wanted to, we were not properly equipped. And we thought, well, let us try something which nobody had tried till now.

Q. And you thought there wasn't very much to lose anyway? If you get into discussions for a few months, and it didn't work out...?

A. Yes. Exactly. But the feeling was that if it doesn't work out, well, then we cannot rule out other options. But we did not say it. We can't say it. So we thought let us tell them that for the first time there is a government that is willing to consider them as our equals and consider very favourably their requests, except the one for a separate state.

There was another calculation. The people of the north desired peace desperately, like never before, because they felt that this time if there is peace they will not get licked by the government in power. You see, the chemistry had changed. Though we knew that the LTTE, and especially Prabhakaran, is paranoid about peace. He's terrified of peace.

Q. Are you saying the chemistry had changed but the psychology hadn't?

A. It seems like that. Then, you see, the psychology also changes when external factors play on it. We knew from our intelligence that the LTTE was very seriously divided. There was the Mahatya group which was saying you should be flexible with this government. This is why Mahatya has disappeared now. Whether he is alive or not we don't know but he's not allowed to operate.

Q. What is your analysis of Prabhakaran and his psychology?

A. Apparently, he had stated to somebody in discussions: 'I have killed so many of my own people, how can I live in a situation of peace?'

Q. If you look at it from his point of view, what guarantees does he have?

A. Maybe you are right. But there are solutions to these things and we wanted to discuss these with him within a framework of a devolutionary package while he could still keep his own security guards who, you know, could perhaps be paid by the state.

Q. But if you think of it from his point of view, what is his charisma unless he's fighting a war?

A. But, of course, in a situation like this where a war has dragged on for 12 years, people get tired of war. They want to live normal lives. He also has two young children. And as I said, the pressure of his own people who want to live normally. And look at people like Anton Balasingham, his main spokesperson, making statements like they are willing to go in for a federal solution as an alternative to Eelam.

Q. The Tigers have complete control of the place. All they need is foreign recognition, but you can't help them with that. So what can you offer them as a bargain?

A. The first thing is that they can live peacefully. Without getting bombarded from the air and sea and shot at from the ground. And I think that this is a strong, very strong point in favour of peace.

Q. Suppose they don't attack your forces and carry on just running their own administration in the north and the east. Then what do you do?

A. Well, that was the situation there for about eight months. So, in fact, some people felt we shouldn't have pushed them to discuss the political package. We should have allowed them to go on with the administration and keep on building bridges to pacify the people and deal with whatever Prabhakaran's mental problems were.

Q. What mental problems?

A. Fear of peace. His desire for power, as I told you, and various other things. There must be very serious mental problems if you polish off all your lieutenants.

Q. Then how does one explain Premadasa's assassination? He was talking to them.

A. He was another man who needed psychiatric treatment pretty seriously. You see, in his case he wanted the Indians out first. His hatred of Indians was more than his hatred of the LTTE. And he thought he could manipulate the Tigers to get the Indians out and continue to manipulate Prabhakaran with money and arms and all this, and then do what he wants.

Q. Where do you see India in this equation now? Is it neglecting the problem?

A. I think the Indian Government is taking a very right attitude saying it is your internal problem and hands off as far as the Indian Government is concerned, which is quite right. Why do you say neglect? It is not the Indian

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Government's business to solve our problems unless we ask them.

Q. It was seen like that for a long time.

A. That's very wrong. The Indian Government is very concerned as a friendly neighbour but they have taken the very clear decision that they shall not interfere unless the Sri Lankan Government wants them to. And even then I think they would think ten times before that, which should be the correct attitude.

Q. How did the extradition factor play in all this? Do you think that is the concern in Prabhakaran's mind?

A. That could very definitely be one fear and we had a very major newspaper group which has been sabotaging the peace process. They misreported your foreign minister as having said that I was coming to India and that I would discuss the extradition problems with your prime minister, which was utterly and truly false. It was not even on the agenda.

Q. Did you get any feelers from the Tigers checking on this?

A. Well, we sent them a copy of the correction that I sent to the papers denying all that. But they don't work like that. They don't trust others. I had serious problems.

Q. But isn't the whole thing hypothetical — how do you extradite Prabhakaran unless you've caught him?

A. Exactly.

Q. But why this fear then?

A. In a situation of peace, he must be thinking that it will be easier to catch him. In a situation where he would have to become a democratic politician, he would have to be seen, he would have to go about. I don't think Prabhakaran can see that anything can exist in the world different from the way he sees it.

Q. You mean his view of the world is absolutely firm and cast in concrete?

A. He is incapable of seeing that there are other people who are able to think and feel differently. We thought that maybe he would understand that there is a possibility of a Sri Lankan Sinhala-based government being human. But I don't think he understands that. Yet, it's worth trying.

Q. Weren't the risks large?

A. The only risk was that I would get knocked off. I knew this right from the beginning. We were trying to do something that didn't suit him. Then, the first reaction would be to kill me off. It has already started. They began reconnoitering and spying on me about three to four months ago. But as I have constantly said, people do not exist in a vacuum. In fact, Anton Balasingham said this about two months ago to a French journalist who interviewed him.

Q. You think that the fear of your government gaining popularity in the north was on Prabhakaran's mind when resuming hostilities?

A. They were very worried about it. They had these posters that were issued during elections, they used to keep them inside their houses along with the deities and they used to light lamps saying that this person is going to bring us peace. And they called me by the name of some goddess that they worship. There were Chandrika bangles and Chandrika bracelets. So it became a myth-like thing which was particularly terrifying Prabhakaran. Everything went against his accepted view of the world. I am sure that he couldn't possibly accept that a woman can be leader, a Sinhala woman at that, and that a Sinhala could talk peace. All the factors that helped the Tigers get sympathy, money and arms in the past don't exist any more. We have removed all the black marks. The LTTE has no more logic to carry on the war now supposedly on behalf of the Tamil people except for the personal likes and dislikes of a handful of LTTE leaders.

Q. Where do you go from here?

A. We are not going to take it lying down. But we are still trying to avoid going into an all-out war which would mean a lot of civilian casualties. But because of the way the Jaffna peninsula is, if you have to defeat the LTTE there, you have to launch an all- out attack and the place will be wiped out.

Q. Is that possible? Can the Sri Lankan forces do it?

A. Of course it is possible. That is what the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] tried to do. The point is, if this Government gives the orders to wage war, we won't go back on our word on that either, unlike the previous governments who told the army to fight but cut private deals with the Tigers.

Q. Do you believe allegations that Premadasa supplied arms to the LTTE while the IPKF was still fighting them?

A. Yes. Arms and [rupees] Rs 200 million from the treasury, out of secret funds which don't have to be accounted for. Billions of rupees have gone out of that fund.

Q. How do you assess your two predecessors, Premadasa and Jayewardene?

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A. Disastrous. Both were disastrous for Sri Lanka.

Q. Who was worse?

A. Definitely Jayewardene. Because he started everything which was horrible. Premadasa only continued it. He was more dangerous because he was smarter, more suave.

Q. Did he take Rajiv for a ride?

A. He was the dirtiest of politicians. But he was one of the most shrewd. He could lie like a Trojan. He could have taught Machiavelli how to write his book.

Q. So you agree that he fooled Rajiv?

A. Jayewardene actually gave them (India) the rope to pull out and hang themselves with. By then India was so deeply involved they had to somehow unravel this thing. So Jayewardene set the Indians and the LTTE against each other, washed his hands of it and sat back and had a good laugh. And Rajiv Gandhi paid for it with his life.

Q. And Premadasa?

A. He was killed for different reasons. The Tigers perhaps felt he did not keep his part of the bargain.

Q. But even that is no conclusive logic as to why they would kill Rajiv and expose themselves to opprobrium in Tamil Nadu.

A. This is where the other factors come in. They were just paranoid when they saw the possibility of Rajiv coming to power. They are very much like the Corsican mafia. Once they swear vengeance against somebody, they kill him.

Q. But in terms of timing, politically, wasn't it a disastrous move to kill Rajiv?

A. I think anyway it was a disastrous move to kill Rajiv. I really think he was a decent man. I don't think they thought the Indian Tamils would turn against them. But he was getting so much support in Tamil Nadu that they feared him. They must have thought they will finally get the support of the Tamil Nadu government and the people anyway (even after killing Rajiv).

Q. Do you worry about the India factor while talking to the Tigers now?

A. We had the confidence that the Indian Government has sufficient statesmanship to realise that the solution to terrorism in the north is more important than having one person behind bars, however heinous the crime committed by him.

Q. Did you get any signals like that?

A. Some signals.

Q. Was your view based on these signals or your assessment?

A. Both.

Q. There is a cynical point of view that the resumption of fighting is good because Prabhakaran as a bad guy is politically more convenient than Prabhakaran as a good guy while India demands his extradition.

A. How can anyone who killed so many people be a good guy? But you have to be realistic. The man today controls one-third of our country, two-thirds of its coastline. Whether one likes him or not, one has to deal with him. But we can accept Prabhakaran as the democratic leader of the north if he gave up terrorism and turned the LTTE into a political party.

Q. Do you worry for your life?

A. Fear is a word I do not know. When I took over this responsibility I knew what this would mean. The only thing I am worried about is that I have two children who are very attached to me. Apart from that there are no fears.

Q. Are they interested in politics?

A. They hate it.

Q. What do you think of Narasimha Rao?

A. He is a very wise, erudite and old man who looks at the world very philosophically.

Q. But he must feel a bit strange, surrounded by young women leaders in his neighborhood.

A. Why, he must feel good about it.

Minister: Rebels Will Not Prevent Goal of Peace

BK1505114995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Assuring the nation that the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] action would not stop the government in its pursuit for lasting peace, the minister of power, energy and education and deputy minister of defense, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, told Parliament on Friday [12 May] that the government will resort to means most suited to the mentality of the LTTE if the current process of peaceful negotiations does not appeal to the northern separatist group.

Winding up the emergency debate for government, he said the need of the hour is peace. Government was returned to power with an unequivocal and unprecedented mandate to restore peace. This is our primary task. We

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have suffered a setback. Setbacks have been suffered by the previous governments as well. That is not the reason to abandon the peace efforts, he said. The minister told the critics of the government that one must not ask who is right but what is right. He said that the government had won international support for its peace initiative. It has the support of the peace-loving people, too. He explained that the government is prepared to take up the challenge if the LTTE is bent on a military solution. The minister regretted the LTTE's decision to violate the cessation of hostilities, truce, and the destruction that followed.

Army To Continue Raids; 'Major Loss' for Rebels

BK1505115095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suffered its first major loss since the recent escalation of violence with the killing of at least 43 cadres and wounding of more than 70 others in military operations in the east on Saturday [13 May]. Nine soldiers were also killed and 20 others injured in this operation jointly conducted by regular troops backed by the elite Army Special Forces. Twenty-eight LTTE cadres were killed and about 70 others wounded in the Kumpurupiddy jungles northeast of Trincomalee, a senior military spokesman based in the region said. A senior military official said that troops were successful in destroying several temporary hideouts (?that) accommodated terrorists operating in the area. This is the first major success we have against the Tigers, the official said. The military intends to press ahead with more raids on LTTE jungle bases, he added. Troops taking part in this operation had observed 28 terrorist bodies at three different locations and over 75 lying injured, government spokesman Brigadier Sarath Mungasinghe said yesterday. He predicted that many other wounded would have succumbed to their injuries.

Further on Offensive

BK1605113395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces are continuing their offensive against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

In Kankesanturai, troops opened fire in the direction of an explosion ahead of the forward defense line. As a result, two LTTE cadres were killed and three others seriously wounded. There were no troop casualties.

Troops on patrol in Kalarawa at Tiriyay in the Trincomalee District at 0830 [0300 GMT] yesterday were confronted by a group of terrorists. Sixteen terrorists were killed in action and many wounded. Three civilians caught in the crossfire were also killed. Thirteen soldiers were also killed in confrontation with the LTTE.

During a limited operation in the northwest of Cheddikulam in the Vavuniya District, troops attacked a group of terrorists in a hideout and killed five LTTE members.

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